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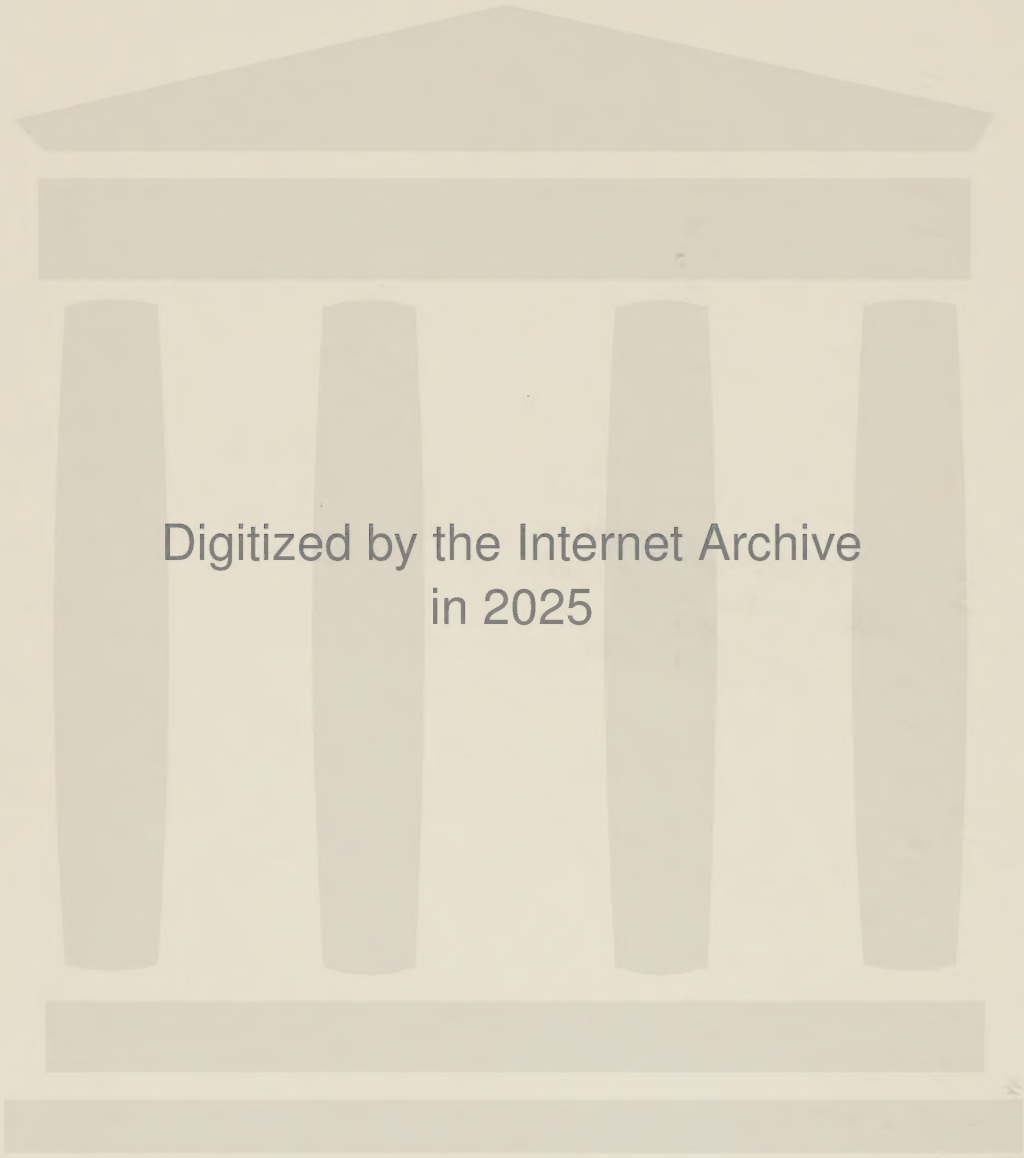
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HISTORY

OF

MERCER COUNTY, OHIO

AND

REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS

EDITED AND COMPILED BY
HON. S. S. SCRANTON
CELINA, OHIO

"History is Philosophy Teaching by Examples."

PUBLISHED BY
BIOGRAPHICAL PUBLISHING CO.
GEORGE RICHMOND, PRES. C. R. ARNOLD, SEC'Y AND TREAS.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
1907

Preface

The aim of the publishers of this volume has been to secure for the historical portion thereof full and accurate information respecting all subjects therein treated, and to present in a clear and impartial manner the data thus gathered. If, as is their hope, they have succeeded in this endeavor, the credit is mainly due to the diligent and exhaustive research of the editor of the historical statement, Hon. S. S. Scranton, of Celina. In collecting and arranging the material which has entered into this history, it has been his aim to secure facts and to present them in an interesting form. His patient and conscientious labor in the compilation and presentation of the data is shown in the historical portion of this volume. All topics and occurrences have been included that are essential to the usefulness of the history. Although the purpose of the author was to limit the narrative to the close of 1906, he has deemed it proper to touch on many matters relating to the current year.

The reviews of resolute and strenuous lives, which make up the biographical department of the volume, and whose authorship is wholly independent of that of the history, are admirably adapted to foster local ties, to inculcate patriotism and to emphasize the rewards of industry, dominated by intelligent purpose. They constitute a most appropriate medium of perpetuating personal annals and will be of incalculable value to the descendants of those commemorated. They bring into bold relief careers of enterprise and thrift and make manifest valid claims to honorable distinction. If "Biography is the only true History," it is obviously the duty of men of the present time to preserve in this enduring form the story of their lives in order that their posterity may dwell on the successful struggles thus recorded, and profit by their example. These sketches, replete with stirring incidents and intense experiences, will naturally prove to most of the readers of this book its most attractive feature.

In the aggregate of personal memoirs thus collated will be found a vivid epitome of the growth of Mercer County, which will fitly supplement the historical statement; for the development of the county is identified with that

of the men and women to whom it is attributable. The publishers have endeavored in the preparation of the work to pass over no feature of it slightingly, but to give heed to the minutest details, and thus to invest it with a substantial accuracy which no other treatment would afford. The result has amply justified the care thus exercised, for in our belief no more reliable production, under the circumstances, could be laid before its readers.

We have given special prominence to the portraits of representative citizens, which appear throughout this volume, and believe they will prove a most interesting feature of the work. We have sought to illustrate the different spheres of industrial and professional achievements as conspicuously as possible. To those who have kindly interested themselves in the successful preparation of this work, and who have voluntarily contributed most useful information and data, we herewith tender our grateful acknowledgement.

Chicago, Ill., March, 1907. THE PUBLISHERS.

Note

All the biographical sketches published in this volume were submitted to their respective subjects or to the subscribers, from whom the facts were primarily obtained, for their approval or correction before going to press; and a reasonable time allowed in each case for the return of the type-written copies.

Most of them were returned to us within the time allotted, or before the work was printed, after being corrected or revised; and these may therefore be regarded as reasonably accurate.

A few, however, were not returned to us and as we have no means of knowing whether they contain errors or not, we cannot vouch for their accuracy. In justice to our readers, and to render this work more valuable for reference purposes, we have indicated these uncorrected sketches by a small asterisk (*), placed immediately after the name of the subject. They will all be found on the last pages of the book.

THE PUBLISHERS.

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S. S. Scranton

History of Mercer County

CHAPTER I

THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY

Virginia acquired title to the great Northwest by its several charters granted by James I., bearing dates, respectively, of April 10, 1606, May 23, 1609, and March 12, 1611. The Colony of Virginia first attempted to exercise authority in, or jurisdiction over, that portion of its extensive domains that was organized by the Ordinance of 1787 into the "Territory Northwest of the River Ohio," when in 1769 the House of Burgesses of said Colony passed an act establishing the county of Botetourt, with the Mississippi River as its western boundary. The aforesaid act recited that, "whereas, the people situated on the Mississippi, in the said county of Botetourt, will be very remote from the Court House, and must necessarily become a separate county as soon as their numbers are sufficient, which, probably, will happen in a short time, be it therefore enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the inhabitants of that part of the said county of Botetourt which lies on the said waters shall be exempted from the payment of any levies to be laid by the said County Court for the purpose of building a Court House and prison for the said county."

Civil government, however, between the Ohio and Mississippi rivers was more in name than reality, until the year 1778, after the conquest of the country by Gen. George Rogers Clark, when the Virginia Legislature organized the county of Illinois, embracing within its limits all the territory owned by Virginia west of the Ohio River. Col. John Todd served, under appointment received from the Governor of Virginia, as civil commandant and lieutenant of the county until his death, at the battle of Blue Licks, in 1782, less than two years before Virginia ceded the country to the United States. Timothy de Montbrun was his successor.

In 1783 the General Assembly of Virginia passed an act authorizing

the Virginia delegates in Congress to convey to the United States all the right of that commonwealth to the territory northwest of the river Ohio.

Pursuant to the foregoing action of the General Assembly of Virginia, Thomas Jefferson, Samuel Hardy, Arthur Lee and James Monroe, Virginia's delegates in Congress, did, as per deed of cession, on the first day of March, 1784, it being the eighth year of American independence, "convey (in the name, for and on behalf of, the said commonwealth), transfer, assign, and make over unto the United States in Congress assembled, for the benefit of said States, Virginia inclusive, all right, title and claim, as well of soil as of jurisdiction, to the territory of said State lying and being to the northwest of the river Ohio." Upon the presentation of said deed of cession, Congress resolved, on the same day, "that it be accepted, and the same be recorded and enrolled among the acts of the United States in Congress assembled."

The United States having thus secured title to the "Great Northwest," Congress soon deemed it advisable to take the preliminary steps looking to the permanent establishment of civil government in the new and extensive territory, of which it had just become the legal custodian. Accordingly, after much mature deliberation and careful consideration of the subject, as well as prolonged discussion of the important questions involved, they, on the 13th of July, 1787, gave to the world the results of their deliberations in "An Ordinance for the Government of the Territory of the United States Northwest of the River Ohio," which has come to be best known as the "Ordinance of 1787," sometimes called the "Ordinance of Freedom." As said ordinance was the fundamental law, the constitution, so to speak, of the great Northwest, upon which were based, and with which harmonized, all our territorial enactments, as well as all our subsequent State legislation; and moreover, as it is to that wise, statesmanlike document that we are indebted for much of our prosperity and greatness, we give it entire as follows:

THE ORDINANCE OF 1787.

An Ordinance for the Government of the Territory of the United States Northwest of the River Ohio.

Be it ordained by the United States in Congress assembled, That the said territory, for the purposes of temporary government, be one district, subject, however, to be divided into two districts, as future circumstances may, in the opinion of Congress, make it expedient.

Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the estates, both of resident and non-resident proprietors in the said territory, dying intestate, shall descend to, and be distributed among, their children, and the descendants of a deceased child, in equal parts; the descendants of a deceased child or grandchild to take the share of their deceased parent in equal parts among them: And where there shall be no children or descendants, then in equal parts to the next of kin in equal degree; and, among

collaterals, the children of a deceased brother or sister of the intestate shall have, in equal parts among them, their deceased parents' share; and there shall, in no case, be a distinction between kindred of the whole and half blood; saving, in all cases, to the widow of the intestate her third part of the real estate for life, and one-third part of the personal estate, and this law, relative to descents and dower, shall remain in full force until altered by the legislature of the district. And, until the governor and judges shall adopt laws as hereinafter mentioned, estates in the said territory may be devised or bequeathed by wills in writing, signed and sealed by him or her, in whom the estate may be (being of full age), and attested by three witnesses; and real estates may be conveyed by lease and release, or bargain and sale, signed, sealed, and delivered by the person, being of full age, in whom the estate may be, and attested by two witnesses, provided such wills be duly proved, and such conveyances be acknowledged, or the execution thereof duly proved, and be recorded within one year after proper magistrates, courts, and registers shall be appointed for that purpose; and personal property may be transferred by delivery; saving, however, to the French and Canadian inhabitants, and other settlers of the Kaskaskias, St. Vincents, and the neighboring villages, who have heretofore professed themselves citizens of Virginia, their laws and customs now in force among them, relative to the descent and conveyance of property.

Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That there shall be appointed, from time to time, by Congress, a governor, whose commission shall continue in force for the term of three years, unless sooner revoked by Congress; he shall reside in the district, and have a freehold estate therein, in 1,000 acres of land, while in the exercise of his office.

There shall be appointed, from time to time, by Congress, a secretary, whose commission shall continue in force for four years unless sooner revoked; he shall reside in the district, and have a freehold estate therein, in 500 acres of land, while in the exercise of his office; it shall be his duty to keep and preserve the acts and laws passed by the legislature, and the public records of the district, and the proceedings of the governor in his Executive department; and transmit authentic copies of such acts and proceedings, every six months, to the Secretary of Congress: There shall be appointed a court to consist of three judges, any two of whom to form a court, who shall have a common law jurisdiction, and reside in the district, and have each therein a freehold estate in 500 acres of land while in the exercise of their offices; and their commissions shall continue in force during good behavior.

The governor and judges, or a majority of them, shall adopt and publish in the district such laws of the original States, criminal and civil, as may be necessary and best suited to the circumstances of the district, and report them to Congress from time to time: which laws shall be in force in the district until the organization of the General Assembly therein, unless disapproved of by Congress; but, afterwards, the legislature shall have authority to alter them as they shall think fit.

The governor, for the time being, shall be commander-in-chief of the militia, appoint and commission all officers in the same below the rank of general officers; all general officers shall be appointed and commissioned by Congress.

Previous to the organization of the General Assembly, the governor shall appoint such magistrates and other civil officers, in each county or township, as he shall find necessary for the preservation of the peace and good order in the same: After the General Assembly shall be organized, the powers and duties of magistrates and other civil officers shall be regulated and defined by the said assembly; but all magistrates and other civil officers, not herein otherwise directed, shall, during the continuance of this temporary government, be appointed by the governor.

For the prevention of crimes and injuries, the laws to be adopted or made shall have force in all parts of the district, and for the execution of process, criminal and civil, the governor shall make proper divisions thereof; and he shall proceed, from time

to time, as circumstances may require, to lay out the parts of the district in which the Indian titles shall have been extinguished, into counties and townships, subject, however, to such alterations as may thereafter be made by the legislature.

So soon as there shall be 5,000 free male inhabitants of full age in the district, upon giving proof thereof to the governor, they shall receive authority, with time and place, to elect representatives from their counties or townships to represent them in the General Assembly: *Provided,* That, for every 500 free male inhabitants, there shall be one representative, and so on progressively with the number of free male inhabitants, shall the right of representation increase, until the number of representatives shall amount to 25; after which, the number and proportion of representatives shall be regulated by the legislature: *Provided,* That no person be eligible or qualified to act as a representative unless he shall have been a citizen of one of the United States three years, and be a resident in the district, or unless he shall have resided in the district three years; and, in either case, shall likewise hold in his own right, in fee simple, 200 acres of land within the same: *Provided, also,* That a freehold in 50 acres of land in the district, having been a citizen of one of the States, and being resident in the district, or the like freehold and two years residence in the district, shall be necessary to qualify a man as an elector of a representative.

The representative, thus elected, shall serve for the term of two years; and, in case of the death of a representative, or removal from office, the governor shall issue a writ to the county or township for which he was a member, to elect another in his stead, to serve for the residue of the term.

The General Assembly, or Legislature, shall consist of the governor, legislative council, and a house of representatives. The legislative council shall consist of five members, to continue in office five years, unless sooner removed by Congress; any three of whom to be a quorum: and the members of the council shall be nominated and appointed in the following manner, to wit: As soon as representatives shall be elected, the governor shall appoint a time and place for them to meet together; and, when met, they shall nominate ten persons, residents in the district, and each possessed of a freehold in 500 acres of land, and return their names to Congress; five of whom Congress shall appoint and commission to serve as aforesaid; and, whenever a vacancy shall happen in the council, by death or removal from office, the house of representatives shall nominate two persons, qualified as aforesaid, for each vacancy, and return their names to Congress; one of whom Congress shall appoint and commission for the residue of the term. And every five years, four months at least before the expiration of the time of service of the members of council, the said house shall nominate ten persons, qualified as aforesaid, and return their names to Congress; five of whom Congress shall appoint and commission to serve as members of the council five years, unless sooner removed. And the governor, legislative council, and house of representatives, shall have authority to make laws in all cases, for the good government of the district, not repugnant to the principles and articles in this ordinance established and declared. And all bills, having passed by a majority in the house, and by a majority in the council, shall be referred to the governor for his assent; but no bill, or legislative act whatever, shall be of any force without his assent. The governor shall have power to convene, prorogue, and dissolve the General Assembly, when, in his opinion, it shall be expedient.

The governor, judges, legislative council, secretary, and such other officers as Congress shall appoint in the district, shall take an oath or affirmation of fidelity and of office; the governor before the President of Congress, and all other officers before the governor. As soon as a legislature shall be formed in the district, the council and house, assembled in one room, shall have authority, by joint ballot, to elect a delegate to Congress, who shall have a seat in Congress, with a right of debating but not of voting during this temporary government.

And, for extending the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty, which form

the basis whereon these republics, their laws and constitutions are erected; to fix and establish those principles as the basis of all laws, constitutions, and governments, which forever hereafter shall be formed in the said territory: to provide also for the establishment of States, and permanent government therein, and for their admission to a share in the federal councils on an equal footing with the original States, at as early periods as may be consistent with the general interest:

It is hereby ordained and declared by the authority aforesaid, That the following articles shall be considered as articles of compact between the original States and the people and States in said territory and forever remain unalterable, unless by common consent, to wit:

ART. 1st. No person, demeaning himself in a peaceable and orderly manner, shall ever be molested on account of his mode of worship or religious sentiments, in the said territory.

ART. 2d. The inhabitants of the said territory shall always be entitled to the benefits of the writ of *habeas corpus,* and of trial by jury; of a proportionate representation of the people in the legislature; and of judicial proceedings according to the course of the common law. All persons shall be bailable, unless for capital offences, where the proof shall be evident, or the presumption great. All fines shall be moderate; and no cruel or unusual punishments shall be inflicted. No man shall be deprived of his liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers or the law of the land; and, should the public exigencies make it necessary, for the common preservation, to take any person's property, or to demand his particular services, full compensation shall be made for the same. And, in the just preservation of rights and property, it is understood and declared that no law ought ever to be made, or have force in the said territory, that shall, in any manner whatever, interfere with or affect private contracts or engagements, *bona fide,* and without fraud, previously formed.

ART. 3d. Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged. The utmost good faith shall always be observed towards the Indians; their lands and property shall never be taken from them without their consent; and, in their property, rights, and liberty, they shall never be invaded or disturbed, unless in just and lawful wars authorized by Congress; but laws founded in justice and humanity, shall, from time to time, be made for preventing wrongs being done to them, and for preserving peace and friendship with them.

ART. 4th. The said territory, and the States which may be formed therein, shall forever remain a part of this confederacy of the United States of America, subject to the Articles of Confederation, and to such alterations therein as shall be constitutionally made; and to all the acts and ordinances of the United States in Congress assembled, conformable thereto. The inhabitants and settlers in the said territory shall be subject to pay a part of the federal debts contracted or to be contracted, and a proportional part of the expenses of government, to be apportioned on them by Congress according to the same common rule and measure by which apportionments thereof shall be made on the other States; and the taxes, for paying their proportion, shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of the legislature of the district or districts, or new States, as in the original States, within the time agreed upon by the United States in Congress assembled. The legislatures of those districts or new States, shall never interfere with the primary disposal of the soil by the United States in Congress assembled, nor with any regulations Congress may find necessary for securing the title in such soil to the *bona fide* purchasers. No tax shall be imposed on lands the property of the United States; and, in no case, shall non-resident proprietors be taxed higher than residents. The navigable waters leading into the Mississippi and St. Lawrence, and the carrying places between the same, shall be common highways, and forever free, as well to the inhabitants of the said territory as to the citizens of the United States, and those of any other States that may be admitted into the Confederacy, without any tax, impost, or duty, therefor.

ART. 5th. There shall be formed in the said territory, not less than three nor more than five States; and the boundaries of the State, as soon as Virginia shall alter her act

of cession, and consent to the same, shall become fixed and established as follows, to wit: The Western State in the said territory, shall be bounded by the Mississippi, the Ohio, and Wabash rivers; a direct line drawn from the Wabash and Post Vincent's, due North, to the territorial line between the United States and Canada; and, by the said territorial line, to the Lake of the Woods and Mississippi. The middle State shall be bounded by the said direct line, the Wabash from Post Vincent's, to the Ohio; by the Ohio, by a direct line, drawn due North from the mouth of the Great Miami, to the said territorial line, and by the said territorial line. The Eastern State shall be bounded by the last-mentioned direct line, the Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the said territorial line: *Provided, however,* and it is further understood and declared, that the boundaries of these three States shall be subject so far to be altered, that, if Congress shall hereafter find it expedient, they shall have authority to form one or two States in that part of the said territory which lies North of an East and West line drawn through the Southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan. And, whenever any of the said States shall have 60,000 free inhabitants therein, such State shall be admitted, by its delegates, into the Congress of the United States, on an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatever, and shall be at liberty to form a permanent constitution and State government: *Provided,* the constitution and government so to be formed, shall be republican, and in conformity to the principles contained in these articles; and, so far as it can be consistent with the general interest of the Confederacy, such admission shall be allowed at an earlier period, and when there may be a less number of free inhabitants in the State than 60,000.

ART. 6th. There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted: *Provided, always,* That any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any one of the original States, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service as aforesaid.

Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the resolutions of the 23d of April, 1784, relative to the subject of this ordinance, be, and the same are hereby, repealed and declared null and void.

Done by the United States, in Congress assembled, the 13th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1787, and of their sovereignty and independence the twelfth.

PROBABLE NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION IN 1787.

Up to the time of the passage of the Ordinance of 1787, there had been no permanent settlements by white men established upon territory embraced within the boundaries given to the Northwest Territory, except the few French villages in the western and the northwestern portions of it. If any such existed within the present limits of Ohio, they must have been situated along the Maumee River, and of small extent. The government had hitherto, for the sake of peace, discouraged, and by military force prevented, all attempts of white settlers to occupy lands belonging to the Indians.

The chief of those French villages were: Detroit, on the Detroit River; St. Vincents, on the Wabash; Cahokia, five miles below St. Louis; St. Philip, 48 miles below St. Louis, on the Mississippi; Kaskaskia, six miles above the mouth of the Kaskaskia River, which empties into the Mississippi 75 miles below St. Louis; Prairie-du-Rocher, near Fort Chartres; and Fort Chartres, 15 miles northwest from Kaskaskia. These were all small settlements or villages, whose aggregate inhabitants probably did not exceed 3,000.

The inhabitants of these remote settlements in the wilderness and on the prairies, says a late writer, "were of a peculiar character. Their intercourse with the Indians, and their seclusion from the world, developed among them peculiar characteristics. They assimilated themselves with the Indians, adopted their habits and almost uniformly lived in harmony with them. They were illiterate, careless, contented, but without much industry, energy or foresight. Some were hunters, trappers and anglers, while others run birch-bark canoes by way of carrying on a small internal trade, and still others cultivated the soil. The traders or *voyageurs* were men fond of adventure, and of a wild, unrestrained, Indian sort of life and would ascend many of the long rivers of the West almost to their sources in their birch-bark canoes, and load them with furs bought of the Indians. The canoes were light, and could easily be carried across the portages between streams."

There was attached to these French villages a "common field," for the free use of the villagers, every family, in proportion to the number of its members, being entitled to share in it. It was a large enclosed tract for farming purposes. There was also at each village a "common," or large inclosed tract, for pasturage and fuel purposes, and timber for building. If a head of a family was sick, or by any casualty was unable to labor, his portion of the "common field" was cultivated by his neighbors, and the crop gathered for the use of his family. "The French villagers," says the author of "Western Annals," "were devout Catholics, who, under the guidance of their priests, attended punctually upon all the holidays and festivals, and performed faithfully all the outward duties and ceremonies of the church. Aside from this, their religion was blended with their social feelings. Sundays, after mass, was the especial occasion for their games and assemblies. The dance was the popular amusement with them, and all classes, ages, sexes and conditions, united by a common love of enjoyment, met together to participate in the exciting pleasure. They were indifferent about the acquisition of property for themselves or for their children. Living in a fruitful country, which, moreover, abounded in fish and game, and where the necessaries of life could be procured with little labor, they were content to live in unambitious peace and comfortable prosperity. Their agriculture was rude, their houses were humble, and they cultivated grain, also fruit and flowers; but they lived on from generation to generation without much change or improvement. In some instances they intermarried with some of the surrounding Indian tribes."

Most of these far-off Western villages were protected by military posts, and some of them (notably Detroit, which in 1763, when in possession of the English, had for months successfully withstood the attacks of the great Pontiac) had realized something of the "pride, pomp and circumstances of

glorious war." The morning guns of these forts had sounded the merry reveille upon the early breeze, waking the slumbering echoes of the forest, daily, for a century or more; the boom of their loud mid-day cannon across the broad prairies, and its reverberations from the cliff beyond, had been heard for generations; and their evening bugle had wailed plaintively its long-drawn, melancholy notes along the shores of the "Father of Waters"—the mighty river of the West—for more than a hundred years before the adoption of "freedom's ordinance."

ORGANIZATION OF THE OHIO COMPANY OF ASSOCIATES.

While Congress had under consideration the measure for the organization of a territorial government northwest of the Ohio River, the preliminary steps were taken in Massachusetts towards the formation of the Ohio Company of Associates, for the purpose of making a purchase of a large tract of land in said territory, and settling upon it. Upon the passage of the ordinance by Congress, the aforesaid company perfected its organization, and by its agents, Rev. Manasseh Cutler and Maj. Winthrop Sargent, made application to the Board of Treasury, July 27, 1787, to become purchasers, said board having been authorized four days before to make sales. The purchase, which was perfected October 27, 1787, embraced a tract of land containing about a million and a half of acres, situated within the present counties of Washington, Athens, Meigs and Gallia, subject to the reservation of two townships of land six miles square, for the endowment of a college, since known as the Ohio University, at Athens; also every 16th section, set apart for the use of schools, as well as every 29th section, dedicated to the support of religious institutions; also sections 8, 11 and 26, which were reserved for the United States, for future sale. After these deductions were made, and that for "donation lands," there remained only 964,285 acres to be paid for by the Ohio Company of Associates, and for which patents were issued.

At a meeting of the directors of the company, held November 23, 1787, Gen. Rufus Putnam was chosen superintendent of the company, and he accepted the position. Early in December, six boat-builders and a number of other mechanics were sent forward to Simrell's Ferry (now West Newton), on the Youghiogheny, under the command of Maj. Haffield White, where they arrived in January, and at once proceeded to build a boat for the company. Col. Ebenezer Sproat, of Rhode Island, Anselm Tupper and John Matthews, of Massachusetts, and Col. Return Jonathan Meigs, of Connecticut, were appointed surveyors. Preliminary steps were also taken at this meeting to secure a teacher and chaplain, which resulted in the appointment

of Rev. Daniel Story, who some time during the year arrived at the mouth of the Muskingum in the capacity of the first missionary and teacher from New England.

Early in the winter the remainder of the pioneers, with the surveyors, left their New England homes and started on their toilsome journey to the Western wilderness. They passed on over the Alleghanies, and reached the Youghiogheny about the middle of February, where they rejoined their companions who had preceded them.

The boat, called the "Mayflower," that was to transport the pioneers to their destination, was 45 feet long, 12 feet wide, and of 50 tons burden, and was under the command of Captain Devol. "Her bows were raking or curved like a galley and strongly timbered; her sides were made bullet proof, and she was covered with a deck roof," so as to afford better protection against the hostile savages while floating down towards their Western home, and during its occupancy there, before the completion of their cabins. All things being ready, they embarked at Simrell's Ferry, April 2, 1788, and passed down the Youghiogheny into the Monongahela, and thence into the Ohio, and down said river to the mouth of the Muskingum, where they arrived April 7th, and the first permanent settlement of civilized men within the present limits of Ohio was made then and there. These bold adventurers were reinforced by another company from Massachusetts, who, after a nine weeks' journey, arrived early in July, 1788.

Many of these Yankee colonists had been officers and soldiers in the Revolutionary Army and were, for the most part, men of intelligence and character, enterprising, fond of adventure and daring, and not to be intimidated by the formidable forests nor by the ferocious beasts sheltered therein, nor by the still more to be dreaded savages, who stealthily and with murderous intent roamed througout their length and breadth. Their army experience had taught them what hardships and privations were, and they were quite willing to encounter them. A better set of men could not have been selected for pioneer settlers than were these New England colonists—these brave-hearted, courageous hero-emigrants of the great Northwest, who, having triumphantly passed the fiery ordeal of the Revolution, volunteered to found a State and to establish American laws, American institutions and American civilization in this the wilderness of the uncivilized West. If any State in our American Union ever had a better start in its incipient settlement than Ohio, we are not aware of it. General Washington, writing of these brave pioneers, said that, "no colony in America was ever settled under such favorable auspices as that which has just commenced at the Muskingum. Information, property, and strength will be its characteristics. I know many of the settlers personally, and there never were men

better calculated to promote the welfare of such a community." Having had a personal army acquaintance with Generals Putnam and Parsons, and with Col. Return Jonathan Meigs, and probably with many other leading members of this pioneer colony, his favorable opinion of them is entitled to great weight.

THE FIRST SETTLEMENT UNDER THE ORDINANCE OF 1787.

Of course no time was lost by the colonists in erecting their habitations, as well as in building a stockade fort, and in clearing land for the production of vegetables and grain for their subsistence, 50 acres of corn having been planted for the first year. Their settlement was established upon the point of land between the Ohio and Muskingum rivers, just opposite and across the Muskingum from Fort Harmar, built in 1786, and at this time garrisoned by a small military force under command of Major Doughty. At a meeting held on the banks of the Muskingum, July 2, 1788, it was voted that Marietta should be the name of their town, it being thus named in honor of Marie Antoinette, Queen of France.

SURVEYS AND GRANTS OF THE PUBLIC LANDS.

Congress Lands.—The first survey of the public lands northwest of the Ohio River was the seven ranges of Congress lands, and was done pursuant to an act of Congress, of May 20, 1785. This tract of the seven ranges is bounded by a line of 42 miles in length, running due west from the point where the western boundary line of Pennsylvania crosses the Ohio River; thence due south to the Ohio River, at the southeast corner of Marietta township in Washington county, thence up said river to the place of beginning. The present counties of Jefferson, Columbiana, Carroll, Tuscarawas, Harrison, Guernsey, Belmont, Noble, Monroe and Washington are, in whole or in part, within the seven ranges.

Ohio Company's Purchase.—The second survey was that of the Ohio Company's purchase, made in pursuance of an act of Congress of July 23, 1785, though the contract was not completed with the Ohio Company until October 27, 1787.

One hundred thousand acres of this tract, called "donation lands," were reserved upon certain conditions as a free gift to actual settlers. Portions of the counties of Washington, Athens and Gallia are within this tract, also the entire county of Meigs. The "donation lands" were in Washington County.

The Symmes Purchase.—The next survey was the Symmes purchase and

contiguous lands, situated to the north and west of it, and was made soon after the foregoing. The Symmes purchase embraced the entire Ohio River front between the Great Miami and the Little Miami rivers, a distance of 27 miles, and reaching northwards a sufficient distance to include an area of one million of acres. The contract with Judge Symmes, made in October, 1787, was subsequently modified by act of Congress bearing date of May 5, 1792, and by an authorized act of the President of the United States, of September 30, 1794, so as to amount to only 311,682 acres, exclusive of a reservation of 15 acres around Fort Washington; of a square mile at the mouth of the Great Miami; of sections 16 and 29 in each township, the former of which Congress had reserved for educational and the latter for religious purposes; exclusive also of a township dedicated to the interests of a college; and sections 8, 11 and 26, which Congress reserved for future sale.

Virginia Military District.—The tract of land situated between the Little Miami and Scioto rivers, known as the Virginia Military District, was never regularly surveyed into townships, but patents were issued by the President of the United States to such persons (Virginians) as had rendered service on the continental establishment in the Army of the United States (hence the name), and in the quantities to which they were entitled, according to an act of Congress of August 10, 1790. "It embraces a body of 6,570 square miles or 4,204,800 acres of land. The following counties are situated in this tract, namely: Adams, Brown, Clermont, Clinton, Fayette, Highland, Madison, and Union entirely; and greater or less portions of the following, to-wit: Marion, Delaware, Franklin, Pickaway, Ross, Pike, Scioto, Warren, Greene, Clark, Champaign, Logan, and Hardin."

Western Reserve.—Connecticut ceded all lands in the Northwest, to which she claimed title, to the United States (except the tract which has been known as the "Western Reserve"), by deed of cession bearing date of September 14, 1786; and in May, 1800, by act of the Legislature of said state, renounced all jurisdictional claim to the "territory called the Western Reserve of Connecticut." That tract of land was surveyed in 1796, and later into townships of five miles square, and in the aggregate contained about 3,800,000 acres, being 120 miles long and lying west of the Pennsylvania State line, all situated between 41 degrees of north latitude and 42 degrees and two minutes. Half a million of acres of the foregoing lands were set apart by the State of Connecticut in 1792, as a donation to the sufferers by fire (during the Revolutionary War) of the residents of Greenwich, New London, Norwalk, Fairfield, Danbury, New Haven and other Connecticut villages, whose property was burned by the British; hence the name "Firelands," by which this tract taken from the western portion of the Reserve has been known. It is chiefly situated in Huron and Erie counties, a

small portion only being in Ottawa County. The entire Western Reserve embraces the present counties of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Erie, Geauga, Huron, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Trumbull; also the greater part of Mahoning and Summit, and very limited portions of Ashland and Ottawa.

French Grant is a tract of 24,000 acres of land bordering on the Ohio River, within the present limits of Scioto County, granted by Congress in March, 1795, to certain French settlers of Gallipolis, who, through invalid titles, had lost their lands there. Twelve hundred acres were added to this grant in 1796, making a total of 25,200 acres.

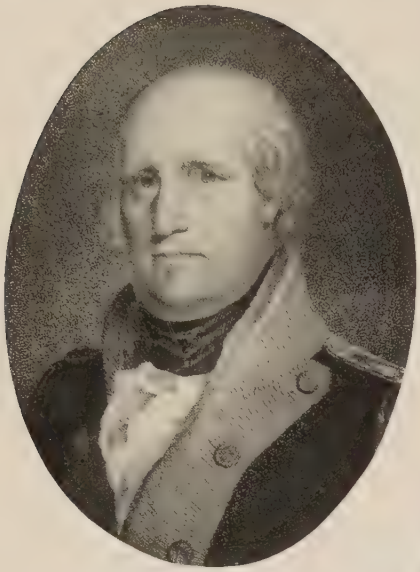
The United States Military Lands were surveyed under the provisions of an act of Congress, of June 1, 1796, and contained 2,560,000 acres. This tract was set apart to satisfy certain claims of the officers and soldiers of the Revolutionary War; hence the title by which it was known. It is bounded by the seven ranges on the east, by the Greenville treaty line on the north, by the Congress and refugee lands on the south, and by the Scioto River on the west, including the county of Coshocton entire, and portions of the counties of Tuscarawas, Guernsey, Muskingum, Licking, Franklin, Delaware, Marion, Morrow, Knox and Holmes.

The Moravian Lands are three several tracts of 4,000 acres each, situated, respectively, at Shoenbrün, Gnadenhutten and Salem, all on the Tuscarawas River, now in Tuscarawas County. These lands were originally dedicated by an act of Congress, dated September 3, 1788, to the use of the Christianized Indians at those points and by an act of Congress, of July 1, 1796, were surveyed and patents issued to the Society of the United Brethren, for the purpose above specified.

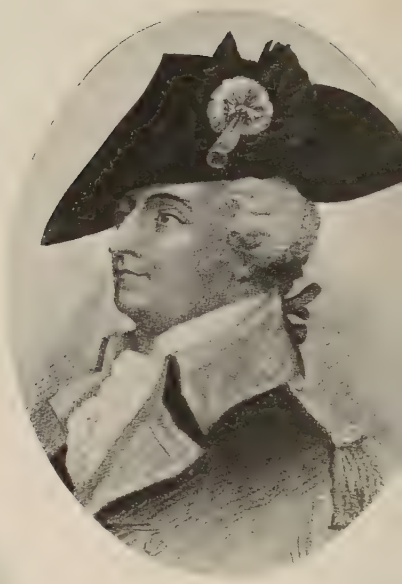
The Refugee Tract is a body of land containing 100,000 acres, granted by Congress February 18, 1801, to persons who fled from the British provinces during the Revolutionary War, and took up arms against the mother country and in behalf of the Colonies, and thereby lost their property by confiscation. This tract is 4½ miles wide, and extends 48 miles eastward from the Scioto River, at Columbus, into Muskingum County. It includes portions of the counties of Franklin, Fairfield, Perry, Licking and Muskingum.

Dohrman's Grant is a township of land six miles square, containing 23,040 acres, situated in the southeastern part of Tuscarawas County. It was given to Arnold Henry Dohrman, a Portuguese merchant of Lisbon, by act of Congress, of February 27, 1801, "in consideration of his having, during the Revolutionary War, given shelter and aid to the American cruisers and vessels of war."

The foregoing is a list of the principal land grants and surveys during our Territorial history, in that portion of the Northwest that now consti-

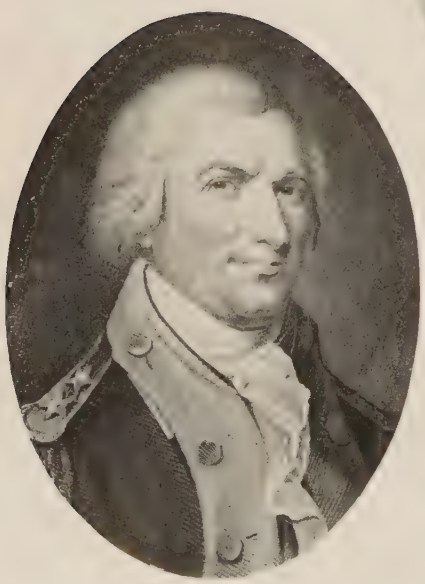


GEN. GEORGE ROGERS CLARK

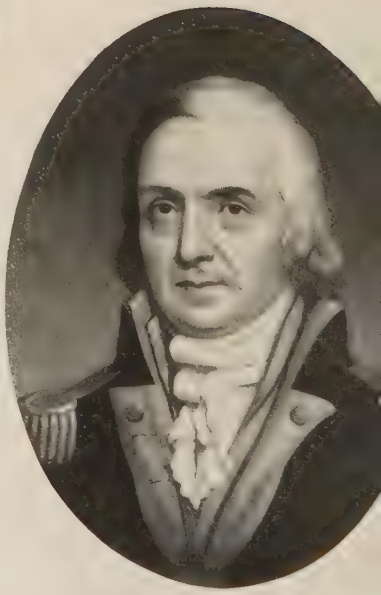


GEN. ANTHONY WAYNE

GEN. WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON



GEN. ARTHUR ST. CLAIR



GEN. JOSIAH HARMA

tutes the State of Ohio. There were canal land grants, Maumee road grants and various others, but they belong to our State, and not to our territorial history.

TREATIES MADE WITH THE INDIANS.

By the terms of the treaty of Fort Stanwix, concluded with the Iroquois or Six Nations (Mohawks, Onondagas, Senecas, Cayugas, Tuscaroras and Oneidas), October 22, 1784, the indefinite claim of said confederacy to the greater part of the valley of the Ohio was extinguished. The commissioners of Congress were Oliver Wolcott, Richard Butler and Arthur Lee. Cornplanter and Redjacket represented the Indians. This was followed in January, 1785, by the treaty of Fort McIntosh, by which the Delawares, Wyandots, Ottawas and Chippewas relinquished all claim to the Ohio Valley, and established the boundary line between them and the United States to be the Cuyahoga River, and along the main branch of the Tuscarawas to the forks of the said river near Fort Laurens, thence westwardly to the portage between the head-waters of the Great Miami and the Maumee or Miami of the Lakes, thence down said river to Lake Erie, and along said lake to the mouth of the Cuyahoga River. This treaty was negotiated by George Rogers Clark, Richard Butler and Arthur Lee for the United States, and by the chiefs of the aforenamed tribes. A similar relinquishment was effected by the treaty of Fort Finney (at the mouth of the Great Miami), concluded with the Shawnees, January 31, 1786, the United States commissioners being the same as the foregoing, except the substitution of Samuel H. Parsons for Arthur Lee. The treaty of Fort Harmar, held by Gen. Arthur St. Clair, January 9, 1789, was mainly confirmatory of the treaties previously made. So also was the treaty of Greenville, of August 3, 1795, made by Gen. Anthony Wayne on the part of the United States, and the chiefs of 11 of the most powerful tribes of the Northwestern Indians, which reestablished the Indian boundary line through the present State of Ohio, and extended it from Loramie to Fort Recovery, and thence to the Ohio River, opposite the mouth of the Kentucky River.

The rights and titles acquired by the Indians under the foregoing treaties were extinguished by the general government, by purchase, in pursuance of treaties subsequently made. The Western Reserve tract west of the Cuyahoga River was secured by a treaty formed at Fort Industry in 1805. The lands west of Richland and Huron counties and north of the boundary line to the western limits of Ohio were purchased by the United States in 1818. The last possession of the Delawares was purchased in 1829; and by a treaty made at Upper Sandusky, March 17, 1842, by Col. John Johnston and the Wyandot chiefs, that last remnant of the Indian tribes in Ohio sold the last acre they owned within the limits of our State to the general government, and

retired the next year to the far West, settling at and near the mouth of the Kansas River.

FIRST OFFICERS OF THE TERRITORY.

Congress, in October, 1787, appointed Gen. Arthur St. Clair, Governor, Maj. Winthrop Sargent, Secretary, and James M. Varnum, Samuel H. Parsons and John Armstrong, judges of the Territory. The last named, however, having declined the appointment, John Cleves Symmes was appointed in his stead, in February, 1788. On the 9th of July, 1788, Governor St. Clair arrived at Marietta and, finding the Secretary and a majority of the judges present, proceeded to organize the territory. The Governor and judges (or a majority of them) were the sole legislative power during the existence of the first grade of Territorial government. Such laws as were in force in any of the States, and were deemed applicable to the condition of the people of the Territory, could be adopted by the Governor and judges, and, after publication, became operative, unless disapproved of by Congress, to which body certified copies of all laws thus adopted had to be forwarded by the Secretary of the Territory. The further duty of the judges, who were appointed to serve during good behavior, was to hold court four times a year, whenever the business of the Territory required it, but not more than once a year in any one county.

THE SECOND GRADE OF TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT.

After it should be ascertained that 5,000 free male inhabitants actually resided within the Territory, the second grade of Territorial government could, of right, be established, which provided for a Legislative Council, and also an elective House of Representatives, the two composing the law-making power of the Territory, provided always that the Governor's assent to their acts was had. He possessed the absolute veto power, and no act of the two houses of the Legislature, even if passed by a unanimous vote in each branch, could become a law without his consent. The conditions that authorized the second grade of Territorial government, however, did not exist until 1798, and it was not really put into operation until September, 1799, after the first grade of government had existed for 11 years.

EARLY LAWS OF THE TERRITORY.

The first law was proclaimed July 25, 1788, and was entitled "An act for regulating and establishing the militia." Two days thereafter the Governor issued a proclamation establishing the county of Washington, which included all of the territory east of the Scioto River to which the Indian title had been extinguished, reaching northward to Lake Erie, the Ohio River and the Pennsylvania line being its eastern boundary; Marietta, the

seat of the Territorial government, also becoming the county seat of Washington County. Quite a number of laws were necessarily adopted and published during 1788 and the following year. From 1790 to 1795 they published 64, 34 of them having been adopted at Cincinnati during the months of June, July and August of the last named year, by the Governor and Judges Symmes and Turner. They are known as the "Maxwell Code," from the name of the publisher, and were intended, says the author of "Western Annals," "to form a pretty complete body of statutory provisions." In 1798 11 more were adopted. It was the published opinion of the late Chief Justice Chase, "that it may be doubted whether any colony, at so early a period after its first establishment, ever had so good a code of laws." Among them was that which provided that the "common law of England, and all statutes in aid thereof, made previous to the fourth year of James I., should be in full force within the Territory." Probably four-fifths of the laws adopted were selected from those in force in Pennsylvania; the others were mainly taken from the statutes of Virginia and Massachusetts.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SECOND GRADE OF TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT.

The Governor having satisfactorily ascertained that the conditions existed entitling the Territory to the second grade of government, that is, that there were "5,000 free male inhabitants of full age" within the Territory, he, on the 29th day of October, 1798, took the preliminary steps to effect that object, by issuing his proclamation, directing the qualified voters to hold elections for Territorial Representatives on the third Monday of December, 1798. The election was held in pursuance of said proclamation, which resulted in the following gentlemen being chosen to constitute the popular branch of the Territorial Legislature for the ensuing two years:

MEMBERS OF TERRITORIAL LEGISLATURE OF 1799-1800.

Return Jonathan Meigs, Washington County.
Paul Fearing, Washington County.
William Goforth, Hamilton County.
William McMillan, Hamilton County.
John Smith, Hamilton County.
John Ludlow, Hamilton County.
Robert Benham, Hamilton County.
Aaron Caldwell, Hamilton County.
Isaac Martin, Hamilton County.
Shadrach Bond, St. Clair County.
John Small, Knox County.
John Edgar, Randolph County.
Solomon Sibley, Wayne County.
Jacob Visgar, Wayne County.
Charles F. Chabert de Joncaire, Wayne Co.
Joseph Darlington, Adams County.
Nathaniel Massie, Adams County.
James Pritchard, Jefferson County.
Thomas Worthington, Ross County.
Elias Langham, Ross County.
Samuel Findlay, Ross County.
Edward Tiffin, Ross County.

The above-named gentlemen met at Cincinnati on the 22nd of January, 1799, and nominated 10 men, whose names they forwarded to the United

States Congress, five of whom were to be selected by that body to constitute the Legislative Council of the Territory. They then adjourned to meet on the 16th of September, 1799. On the 22nd of March, 1799, either the United States Senate, the United States House of Representatives or the President of the United States, chose from among those whose names had been suggested to them the following gentlemen, to compose the first Legislative Council of the Northwest Territory, their terms of office to continue five years, any three of whom to form a quorum: Jacob Burnet, of Cincinnati, Hamilton County; Henry Vandenburg, of Vincennes, Knox County; Robert Oliver, of Marietta, Washington County; James Findlay, of Cincinnati, Hamilton County; and David Vance, of Vanceville, Jefferson County. The Ordinance of 1787 named Congress as the authority in whom was vested the right to select five from the list of 10 persons to constitute the Territorial Council. But it will be borne in mind that said ordinance was passed by a Congress that legislated in pursuance of the Articles of Confederation, while yet we had neither President nor United States Senate, hence authority was given to Congress to make the selection. But it is highly probable that the aforesaid authority was subsequently transferred to the President, or to the Senate, or to them jointly.

FIRST COUNCIL AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Both the Council and House of Representatives met at Cincinnati, September 16, 1799, and effected a permanent organization. The Council perfected its organization by the election of the following officers: President, Henry Vandenburg; secretary, William C. Schenck; door-keeper, George Howard; sergeant-at-arms, Abraham Cary. The House of Representatives completed its organization by electing, as its officers, the following gentlemen: Speaker of the House, Edward Tiffin; clerk, John Riley; door-keeper, Joshua Rowland; sergeant-at-arms, Abraham Cary.

Thirty bills were passed at the first session of the Territorial Legislature, but the Governor vetoed 11 of them. They also elected William Henry Harrison, then Secretary of the Territory, a delegate to Congress, by a vote of 11 to 10 that were cast for Arthur St. Clair, Jr., son of the Governor, then a promising young lawyer of Cincinnati, and who then held the office of Attorney-General of the Territory. The first session of the Territorial Legislature was prorogued by the Governor, December 19, 1799, until the first Monday of November, 1800, at which time they reassembled and held the second session at Chillicothe, which, by an act of Congress, of May 7, 1800, was made the seat of the Territorial government, until otherwise ordered by the Legislature. This, the second session of the Territorial Legislature, was of short duration, continuing only until December 9, 1800.

On May 9, 1800, Congress passed an act establishing the Indiana Territory, with boundaries including the present States of Indiana and Illinois, and William Henry Harrison having accepted the office of Governor of said Territory, it devolved upon the Territorial Legislature, at its second session, not only to elect a delegate to Congress to fill the vacancy occasioned by his resignation, but also to elect a delegate to serve during the succeeding Congress. William McMillan was elected to fill the vacancy and Paul Fearing, of Marietta, was elected to serve from the 4th of March, 1801, to the 4th of March, 1803. By the organization of the Indiana Territory, the counties of St. Clair, Knox and Randolph were taken out of the jurisdiction of the Northwest Territory, and with them, of course, Henry Vandenburg, of Knox County, president of the Council; also Shadrach Bond, of St. Clair County; John Small, of Knox County, and John Edgar, of Randolph County, members of the popular branch of the Legislature.

On the 23rd of November, 1801, the third session of the Territorial Legislature was commenced at Chillicothe, pursuant to adjournment. The time for which the members of the House of Representatives were elected having expired, and an election having been held, quite a number of new members appeared. The Council remained nearly as it was at the previous sessions, there being not more than two changes, perhaps only one, that of Solomon Sibley, of Detroit, Wayne County, who took the place of Henry Vandenburg, thrown into the new Territory. Robert Oliver, of Marietta, Washington County, was chosen president of the Council in place of Henry Vandenburg. The officers of the House of Representatives were as follows: Speaker, Edward Tiffin; clerk, John Riley; door-keeper, Edward Sherlock. The third session of the Legislature continued from the 24th of November, 1801, until the 23rd of January, 1802, when it adjourned to meet at Cincinnati on the fourth Monday of November following, but that fourth session was never held, for reasons made obvious by subsequent events.

Congress, on the 30th of April, 1802, had passed "An act to enable the people of the eastern division of the Territory northwest of the river Ohio to form a constitution and State government, and for the admission of such State into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, and for other purposes." In pursuance of the aforesaid enactment, an election had been ordered and held throughout the eastern portion of the Territory, and members of a constitutional convention chosen, who met at Chillicothe on the first day of November, 1802, to perform the duty assigned them. When the time had arrived for commencing the fourth session of the Territorial Legislature, the aforesaid constitutional convention was in session and had evidently nearly completed its labors, as it adjourned on the 29th of said month. The members of the Legislature (eight of whom were also members

of the convention) therefore, seeing that a speedy termination of the Territorial government was inevitable, deemed it inexpedient and unnecessary to hold the proposed session.

The Territorial government was ended by the organization of the State government, March 3, 1803, pursuant to the provisions of a constitution formed at Chillicothe, November 29, 1802, by the following named gentlemen; Joseph Darlington, Israel Donalson and Thomas Kirker, of Adams County; James Caldwell and Elijah Woods, of Belmont County; Philip Gatch and James Sargent, of Clermont County; Henry Abrams and Emanuel Carpenter, of Fairfield County; John W. Browne, Charles Willing Byrd, Francis Dunlavy, William Goforth, John Kitchel, Jeremiah Morrow, John Paul, John Riley, John Smith and John Wilson, of Hamilton County; Rudolph Bair, George Humphrey, John Milligan, Nathan Updegraff and Basil Wells, of Jefferson County; Michael Baldwin, Edward Tiffin, James Grubb, Thomas Worthington and Nathaniel Massie, of Ross County; David Abbott and Samuel Huntington, of Trumbull County; and Ephraim Cutler, Benjamin Ives Gilman, Rufus Putnam and John McIntire, of Washington County. Joseph Darlington, of Adams County; Francis Dunlavy, Jeremiah Morrow and John Smith, of Hamilton County; John Milligan, of Jefferson County; Edward Tiffin, and Thomas Worthington, of Ross County; and Ephraim Cutler, of Washington County, were the eight gentlemen of the last Territorial Legislature that were also elected members of the constitutional convention.

LOCAL COURTS AND COURT OFFICERS.

Among the earliest laws adopted by the Territory of Ohio was one which provided for the institution of a county court of common pleas, to be composed of not less than three nor more than five judges, commissioned by the Governor, who were to hold two sessions in each year. Pursuant to its provisions, the first session of said court was held in and for Washington County, September 2, 1788. The judges of the court were Gen. Rufus Putnam, Gen. Benjamin Tupper and Col. Archibald Crary. Col. Return Jonathan Meigs was clerk and Col. Ebenezer Sproat was sheriff. Elaborate details of the opening of this, the first court held in the Northwest Territory, have come down to us, showing it to have been a stylish, dignified proceeding. Briefly, "a procession was formed at the Point (the junction of the Muskingum with the Ohio River) of the inhabitants and the officers from Fort Harmar, who escorted the judge of the court, the Governor of the Territory and the Territorial judges to the hall appropriated for that purpose, in the northwest blockhouse in 'Campus Martius.'" "The procession," says Mitchener, "was headed by the sheriff, with drawn sword and baton of office."

"After prayer by Rev. Manasseh Cutler, the court was organized by reading the commissions of the judges, clerk and sheriff; after which the sheriff proclaimed that the court was open for the administration of even-handed justice to the poor and the rich, to the guilty and the innocent, without respect of persons; none to be punished without a trial by their peers, and then in pursuance of the laws and evidence in the case."

On the 23rd day of August, 1788, a law was promulgated for establishing "general courts of quarter sessions of the peace." This court was composed of not less than three nor more than five justices of the peace, appointed by the Governor, who were to hold four sessions in each year. The first session of this court was held at "Campus Martius" September 9, 1788. The commission appointing the judges thereof was read. Gen. Rufus Putnam and Gen. Benjamin Tupper, says Mitchener, constituted the justices of the quorum, and Isaac Pearce, Thomas Lord and Return Jonathan Meigs, Jr., the assistant justices; Col. Return Jonathan Meigs, Sr., was clerk. Col. Ebenezer Sproat was sheriff of Washington County 14 years. The first grand jury of the Northwest Territory was impaneled by this court, and consisted of the following gentlemen: William Stacey (foreman), Nathaniel Cushing, Nathan Goodale, Charles Knowles, Anselm Tupper, Jonathan Stone, Oliver Rice, Ezra Lunt, John Matthews, George Ingersoll, Jonathan Devol, Jethro Putnam, Samuel Stebbins and Jabez True.

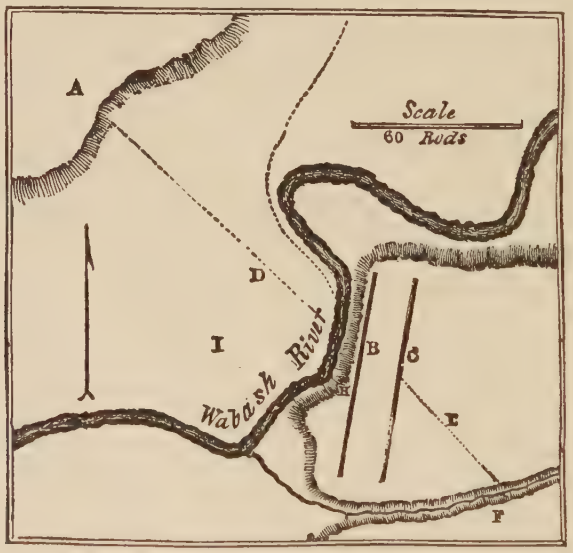
THE FIRST COUNTIES ORGANIZED.

Washington County, then embracing the eastern half of the present State of Ohio, was the only organized county of the Northwest Territory until early in 1790, when the Governor proclaimed Hamilton County, which included all the territory between the Great and Little Miami rivers, and extended north to the "Standing Stone Forks" on the first named stream.

HOSTILITY OF THE INDIAN TRIBES—MILITARY EXPEDITIONS.

From the time of the organization of the government of the Northwest Territory, in 1788, until the ratification of the treaty of Greenville, sometimes called "Wayne's treaty," in 1795, the attitude of many of the Western Indian tribes toward the white settlers in the Northwest Territory was that of extreme, unrelenting hostility. The military organization which had marched against them, before the establishment of civil government in the great Northwest, had signally failed to subjugate them, or secure a permanent cessation of hostilities. The disastrous expeditions of General Braddock in 1755, of Major Wilkins in 1763, of Colonel Bradstreet in 1764, of Colonel Lochry in 1781, and of Colonel Crawford in 1782, and the disgraceful and murderous expedition against the Moravian Indians on the Tuscarawas, in the last named year, only tended to inflame the hostile Indian tribes, and in-

spire them with greater courage in their hostile movements and aggressive measures against the white settlers. The fruitless, if not abortive, campaigns of Colonel McDonald in 1774, of General McIntosh in 1778, and of General Broadhead in 1781, of course led to no salutary results. Even the successful campaigns of Colonel Boquet in 1763-64, of Lord Dunmore and General Lewis in 1774, and of Gen. George Rogers Clark in 1778, failed to secure a permanent peace with the Western Indian tribes. The inhabitants of the Northwest Territory were, therefore, from the 7th day of April, 1788, when the first immigrants arrived at the mouth of the Muskingum, until the treaty of Greenville was concluded in August, 1795, constantly liable to the stealthy but deadly attacks of the perfidious, merciless savage tribes of the Northwest. But they met their dastardly, cruel, relentless foes in the spirit



PLAN OF ST. CLAIR'S BATTLE-FIELD.

References: A.—High ground, on which the militia were encamped at the commencement of the action. B. C.—Encampment of the main army. D.—Retreat of the militia at the beginning of the battle. E.—St. Clair's trace, on which the defeated army retreated. F.—Place where General Butler and other officers were buried. G.—Trail to Girty's Town, on the river St. Mary's, at what is now the village of St. Marys. H.—Site of Fort Recovery, built by Wayne. I.—Place where a brass cannon was found buried in 1830; it is on the bottom where the Indians were three times driven to the highland with the bayonet.—*From Howe's "Historical Collections of Ohio."*

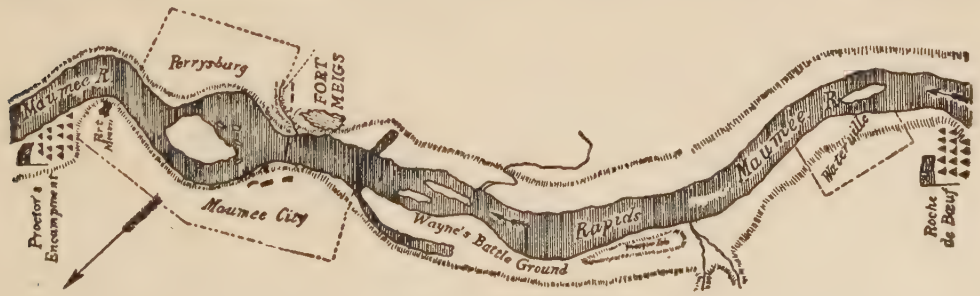
of genuine manhood—of true, determined, unflinching heroism! They were men worthy of the heroic age of the West! Bravely did they bear themselves during those seven years of toil and privation, of dread and apprehension, of suffering and sorrow, of blood and carnage.

To secure the speedy termination of those savage atrocities, the national government early organized a number of military expeditions, the first of which being that of Gen. Josiah Harmar, in 1790, who was then commander-in-chief of the military department of the West. He had a few hundred reg-

ular troops under his command, stationed chiefly at Fort Harmar and Fort Washington, which served as the nucleus of his army, The great body of his troops, however, numbering in all above 1,400, were Pennsylvania and Kentucky volunteers, the former being under the command of Col. John Hardin, and the latter of Colonel Trotter. The expedition left Fort Washington and marched to the junction of the St. Joseph and St. Mary's rivers (now Fort Wayne, Indiana), where detachments of the army, under command of Colonel Hardin, on the 19th and 22nd day of October, encountered the enemy and suffered mortifying defeats. Of course, the campaign failed to give peace or relief from apprehended barbarities.

The next year Gen. Arthur St. Clair, the Governor of the Territory, who had a Revolutionary record of patriotism and ability, organized an expedition, whose strength somewhat exceeded that of General Harmar's. It met with a most disastrous defeat, November 4, 1791, near the head-waters of the Wabash, now in Mercer County, Ohio, the battle-field being known as Fort Recovery. Of 1,500 men in the battle more than half were either killed or wounded. This defeat proved a great calamity to the disheartened and greatly harassed pioneers of the Northwest Territory.

Immediately after the defeat of General St. Clair, the Federal government took the preliminary steps to raise a large army to operate against the hostile tribes, for the purpose of finally and permanently subjugating them. Military preparations, however, progressed slowly, and the summer of 1794 had nearly passed before the confederated hostile Indian tribes were met in battle array by General Wayne's army. The battle was fought at the Maumee Rapids, near Perrysburg and Fort Meigs, in Wood County, Ohio, and is known as the battle of Fallen Timber, though sometimes called the "Battles of the Maumee." Wayne's army numbered more than 3,000 men, well disciplined and ably officered, 1,600 of whom being mounted volunteer troops



PLAN ILLUSTRATING THE BATTLES OF THE MAUMEE.

Explanations.—The map above shows about eight miles of the country along each side of the Maumee, including the towns of Perrysburg, Maumee City and Waterville. Fort Meigs, memorable from having sustained two sieges in the year 1813, is shown on the east side of the Maumee, with the British batteries on both sides of the river, and above the British fort, the position of Proctor's encampment.—*From Knapp's "History of the Maumee Valley."*

from Kentucky, commanded by Gen. Charles Scott, of said State, who was the second ranking officer in the army and who, as well as Gen. Henry Lee (the "Light-Horse Harry" of the Revolution) and Gen. William Darke, had been favorably considered by President Washington in connection with the chief command of the expedition. The choice, however, fell upon General Wayne, the old companion-in-arms of the President, and to him is justly ascribed the honor of defeating the Indian tribes commanded by the celebrated Shawnee chief, Blue Jacket, on the Maumee, August 20, 1794, and of permanently breaking the power of a very formidable Indian confederacy. Cessation of hostilities followed this victory, and a peace, which the general government had vainly sought by friendly negotiation, was secured—a peace which continued for many years, even until after the Northwest Territory had "ceased to be," and the important incidents and events connected therewith had passed into history.

EARLY FORTS OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY.

Fort Washington.—A military post was established at Losantiville (now Cincinnati) and named Fort Washington, after Gen. George Washington, being built by General Doughty in the fall of 1789. It was from this point that the first movement, under General Harmar, was made against the Indians, he being the commandant at the fort, and we may also add that the subsequent expeditions of Generals St. Clair and Wayne started from Fort Washington..

Fort Hamilton.—In the early part of September, 1791, the main body of General St. Clair's army, under General Butler, took up the line of march from Fort Washington, and, moving northward 25 miles, on the eastern bank of the Great Miami erected a fort which they called Fort Hamilton, after Gen. Alexander Hamilton, and which was completed October 4, 1791. It was named by General St. Clair, and was located within the present limits of Butler County, Ohio.

Fort Jefferson.—General St. Clair's army marched from Fort Hamilton a distance of 42 miles, and on October 12, 1791, built Fort Jefferson, six miles south of Greenville, in what is now Darke County, Ohio, being named in honor of Thomas Jefferson. The army remained here until October 24th, then marched nine days, and on November 3rd reached the site of the present town of Fort Recovery, Ohio, and encamped at the head-waters of the Wabash.

Fort Greenville.—General Wayne, having received the appointment to the command of the Western troops against the Indians, was gathering his forces from 1792, to August, 1793. He left Camp Hobson's Choice, near Fort Washington, on October 6, 1793, advanced to the southwest branch of

the Great Miami, within six miles of Fort Jefferson, and in November, 1793, built Fort Greenville, which stood in the vicinity of what is now the town of Greenville, Darke County.

Fort Recovery.—On December 23, 1793, General Wayne gave orders for the erection of a fort on the site of St. Clair's defeat, in 1791. For that purpose he ordered Maj. Henry Barbee with eight companies of infantry and a detachment of artillery to proceed to the ground and erect a fort, which he named Fort Recovery. This was located on the site of the present town of Fort Recovery, in Mercer County. In connection with the building of this fort, we may state that on the arrival of the soldiers, and before they could pitch their tents, they were required to collect the bones of St. Clair's soldiers and carry them out before they could make their beds. The next day 600 skulls were found; the bones were all buried.

Fort Defiance was commenced by General Wayne August 8, 1794, at the junction of the Auglaize and Maumee rivers, and finished August 30th. It consisted of slight earthworks—a stockade with four block-houses, one at each angle. The earthworks of the fort can to this day be readily traced.

PLAN OF FORT DEFIANCE.

Explanations.—At each angle of fort was a block-house. The one next the Maumee is marked A, having port-holes B, on the three exterior sides, and door D, and chimney C, on the side facing to the interior. There was a line of pickets on each side of the fort, connecting the block-houses by their nearest angles. Outside of the pickets and around the block-houses was a glacis, a wall of earth eight feet thick, sloping upwards and outwards from the feet of the pickets, supported by a log wall on the side of the ditch and by fascines, a wall of fagots, on the side next the Auglaize. The ditch, fifteen feet wide and eight feet deep, surrounded the whole work except on the side toward the Auglaize; and diagonal pickets, eleven feet long and one foot apart, were secured to the log wall and projected over the ditch. E and E were gateways. F was a bank of earth, four feet wide, left for a passage across the ditch. G was a falling gate or drawbridge, which was raised and lowered by pulleys, across the ditch, covering it or leaving it uncovered at pleasure. The officers' quarters were at H, and the storehouses at I. At K, two lines of pickets converged towards L, which was a ditch eight feet deep, by which water was procured from the river without exposing the carrier to the enemy. M was a small sand-bar at the point.—*From Knapp's "History of the Maumee Valley."*

Fort Adams.—General Wayne built this fort August 2, 1794, on the south bank of the St. Mary's River, in section 24, Dublin township, Mercer County, on the land subsequently owned by Joseph Palmer, 12 miles east of the Indiana line. It was named by General Wayne in honor of John Adams, then Vice-President of the United States.

Fort Industry was erected by General Wayne in 1794, near the confluence of Swan Creek with the Maumee River, and placed in charge of Capt. J. Rhea, who held the same until after the British evacuated all the posts in the Northwest Territory.

Fort Deposit was built by General Wayne in August, 1794, being located seven miles from the foot of the Maumee Rapids for the reception of stores and baggage, hence the name of the fort, and to better reconnoitre the enemy's ground, which lay behind a thick wood and the British fort (Fort Miami).

Fort Wayne.—The site of this fort was at the junction of the St. Joseph and St. Mary's rivers. It was commenced September 17, and finished October 22, 1794. It occupied a commanding position on the south side of the Maumee River, where the Maumee towns were located. Colonel Hamtramck, on its completion, assumed command of the post with the following sub-legions: Captain Kingsbury's, 1st; Captain Greaton's, 2nd; Captains Spark and Reed's, 3rd; Captain Preston's, 4th; and Captain Porter's artillery. After firing 15 rounds of cannon, Colonel Hamtramck gave it the name of Fort Wayne, after their gallant and victorious general. This fort was dismantled in 1804, when a new and larger one was built in its place. This was also taken down, in 1815, and a more substantial one erected, which consisted of a stockade, block-houses and officers' quarters.

Fort Gower was erected by Lord Dunmore in 1774, and named in honor of Earl Gower. It was situated in what is now Athens County.

Fort Junandat was built by the French in 1750, on the east bank of the Sandusky River.

Fort Piqua, erected prior to the settlement of the country, stood at Upper Piqua, on the west bank of the Miami River. It was used for a place of deposit for stores for the army of Wayne. The portage from here to Fort Loramie, 14 miles, thence to St. Marys, 12 miles, was all the land carriage from the Ohio to Lake Erie. Loaded boats frequently ascended to Fort Loramie, the loading taken out and hauled to St. Marys; the boats also were moved across on wheels, again loaded and launched for Fort Wayne, Fort Defiance and the lake. The last commander of Fort Piqua was Capt. J. N. Vischer, in 1794. During that year two freighted boats, guarded by an officer and 23 men, were attacked by the Indians near the fort, and all masacred. Captain Vischer heard the firing, but from the weakness of his command could render no assistance. The plan of the Indians doubtless was to make the

attack in hearing of the fort, and thereby induce them to sally out in aid of their countrymen, defeat all and take the fort. The commander was a discreet officer, and, aware of the subtleness of the enemy, had the firmness to save the fort. The track of the pickets, the form of the river bastion, still mark the site of Fort Piqua.

Fort St. Clair—About a mile west of Eaton, the county seat of Preble County, is the site of Fort St. Clair, erected in the severe winter of 1791-92, by Maj. John S. Gano, of the Territorial militia. Gen. William Henry Harrison, then an ensign, commanded a guard every other night for about three weeks, during the building of the fort. They had neither fire nor covering of any kind, and suffered much from the intense cold.

Fort Seneca was a military post built in the War of 1812, and was located nine miles north of Tiffin, on the west bank of the Sandusky River. It was occupied by General Harrison's troops at the time of the attack on Fort Stephenson, which was only a few miles below, on the river.

Fort Stephenson, or Sandusky, was built at a very early day, and was within the present limits of Sandusky City. This fort was gallantly defended by Col. George Croghan on the 2nd of August, 1813, against an overwhelming force of British and Indians.

Fort Steuben was situated where the city of Steubenville now stands, being located on North High street, near the site of the female seminary. It was built in 1786 by Major Hamtramck, and was garrisoned by United States troops under command of Colonel Beatty, but was dismantled at the time of Wayne's victory in 1794, and other buildings erected. It was occupied as a military post until 1819, when the reservation on which it stood was sold. The remains of the building were removed about 1848. In connection with the second structure, we would state it was besieged by the Indians under Tecumseh and his brother, the Prophet, in August and September, 1812, and was successfully defended until relieved by the troops under General Harrison.

Fort Loramie was built by General Wayne in 1794, on Loramie's Creek, being 16 miles northwest of the present city of Sidney, Shelby County, Ohio. It received its name from a Frenchman named Loramie, who established it as a trading post and gave his name to the stream, which flows along its southern side.

Fort Harmar.—There were two forts by this name, both of which were built upon the same ground by Gen. Josiah Harmar, west of the Muskingum River, opposite where Marietta now stands. The first fort stood on what is called the "second bottom," being elevated above the ordinary flood of the river, while between it and the banks of the river was a lower or first bottom depressed about six feet, to which the descent was a gradual slope.

The first formed a regular hectagon, and the area embraced within its walls contained about three-fourths of an acre. To communicate with Campus Martius from Fort Harmar, a path was cut and cleaned through the forest. The second fort was erected "on the right bank of the Muskingum River opposite to Marietta, and at its junction with the Ohio." It was named in honor of General Harmar, and was commenced in 1785, but not finished until 1786.

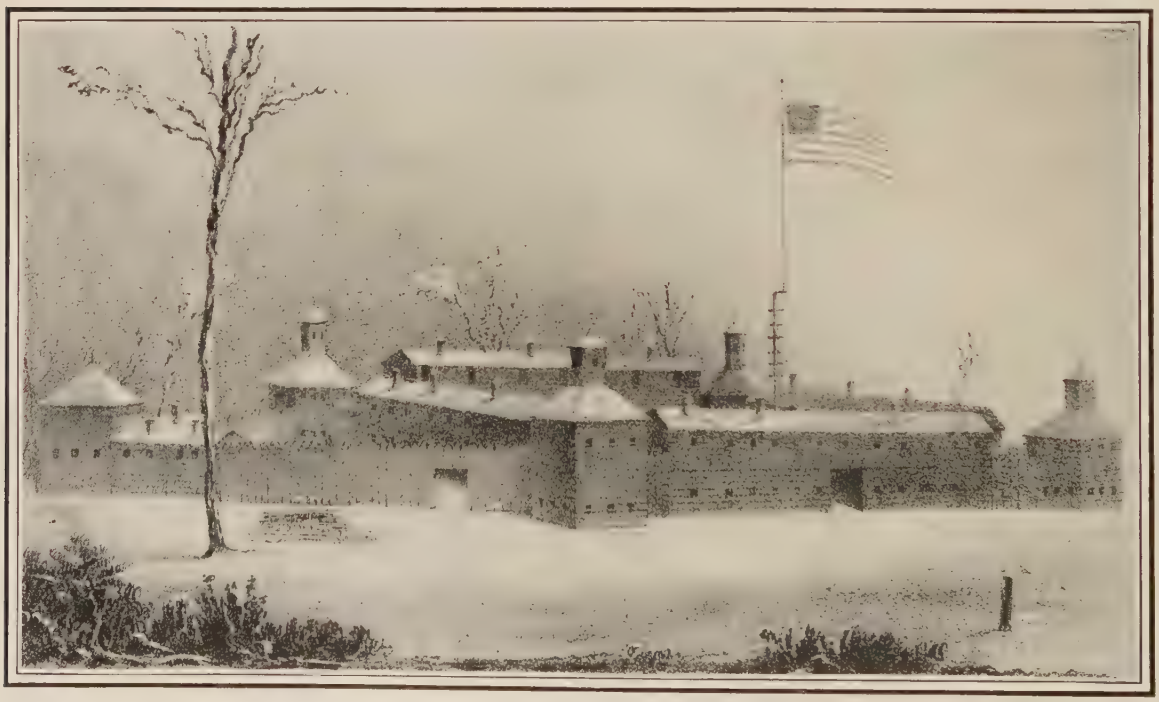
Fort Amanda.—Colonel Poague, with his regiment, built the fort at the Ottawa towns, in what is now Allen County, on the Auglaize, 12 miles from St. Marys, and named it Fort Amanda, in honor of his wife. This regiment was at the same time employed in constructing boats and canoes, and in escorting provision trains between the posts. These were some of the exertions and movements made in our territory in preparation for the main expedition contemplated against Malden. The fort was situated near the west bank of the Auglaize River with about an acre of land. The pickets were from 10 to 12 feet high, and sunk two or three feet in the ground. There were four block-houses, one at each corner; the second story projected over the pickets three or four feet and was pierced with port-holes, from which the soldiers could defend the fort in case of attack; the first story was occupied by soldiers and company officers as sleeping rooms. The block-house in the southeast corner was the largest and was used mainly as officers' quarters. There was also a large cabin in the center of the fort, which was used as a storehouse for supplies for the army, as the soldiers wintered all one winter, if not two, at this point. Again, the old fort was used as one of the first postoffices in Allen County, as well as the first place of preaching. Fort Amanda served as an intermediate storehouse and point of concentration between St. Marys, Urbana and Upper Sandusky on the one side, and Forts Wayne and Defiance on the other. Here a cemetery was established for the interment of the nation's dead during the occupation of the fort. This cemetery was continued in use by the whites after the settlement, and is still a monument to that army.

Fort Auglaize.—This old fort, east of Wapakoneta, was built by the French in 1748.

Fort McIntosh was built by Gen. L. McIntosh in October, 1778, he having succeeded General Hand in the command. This fort was built for the reception and security of prisoners and slaves upon the Indian side of the Ohio River, with barracks for a regiment. Gen. Arthur Lee, in 1784, thus describes it: "It is built of well hewn logs, with four bastions—its figure is an irregular square—the face to the river being longer than the side to the land. It is almost equal to a square of 50 yards—it is well built and strong against musquetry." General McIntosh, leaving a portion of his

FORT AMANDA (ALLEN COUNTY)

(Built in September, 1812, by the United States Troops of the Northwestern Army, under Colonel Poague)



FORT WASHINGTON (CINCINNATI)

(From a sketch by Maj. Jonathan Heart, U. S. A., drawn in 1791)

men to complete the fortification, set out at the head of 1,000 men to build Fort Laurens at the forks of the Muskingum, which he accomplished by December. The object of this was to strike a blow at the Indian town on the Sandusky River—but the season being too far advanced he concluded to defer it until spring, and leaving Col. John Gibson in command, with 150 men to garrison Fort Laurens, he returned in December to Pittsburg. Fort Laurens was attacked in January by about 800 Indians. After frequent parleys and a promise of a barrel of flour, they agreed to send in proposals for peace, but instead of this they retreated. Colonel Gibson relying on their word, and supposing they had left, permitted Captain Clarke, of the Eighth Pennsylvania Regiment, with 15 men, to set out on his return to Fort McIntosh, whence they had gone to escort some provisions. About three miles from Fort Laurens, he was attacked by the notorious and infamous Simon Girty at the head of a band of Mingos. Two of his men were killed, four wounded and one taken prisoner; the remainder escaped to the fort. The garrison, after a long, distressing siege of four weeks, was relieved by General McIntosh at the head of nearly 800 men, who advanced rapidly to raise the siege by the route of Fort McIntosh. As the army came in sight of Fort Laurens, the garrison fired a salute, which so alarmed the pack-horses that they broke loose, by which means much of the provisions was lost and the horses never recovered. Many of the most famished soldiers were injured by the surfeit occasioned by overeating. They returned to Fort McIntosh, where they were met by their friends from the settlements and abundantly supplied. A new body of troops supplied those worn down by the fatigues of the siege, and the fort was left in command of Major Vernon. General McIntosh endeavored to get up an expedition against the Sandusky towns, but overcome by the great exertions necessary, his health much impaired and his spirits broken down, he was forced to resign. Col. Daniel Broadhead succeeded General McIntosh in command, but his position was judiciously chosen, as it commanded not only the mouth of the Muskingum, but swept the waters of the Ohio from a curve in the river both above and below the fort. It was placed under the command of Maj. John Doughty, and occupied by a detachment of United States troops from 1785 to September, 1790. General Broadhead, in his letter to General Armstrong, says: "It was owing to the General's determination to take Detroit that the very romantic building called Fort McIntosh was built by the hands of hundreds who would rather have fought than wrought."

Fort Laurens was erected in November, 1778, at the forks of the Muskingum, on the right bank of the Tuscarawas River, half a mile below the site of Bolivar, Tuscarawas County, by Gen. L. McIntosh, of the Revolution. In December following it was occupied by 1,000 soldiers. Before the troops

left, he placed Col. John Gibson in command, with 150 men to garrison it, and on July 31, 1779, it was evacuated by order of General Broadhead. Henry Laurens, after whom the fort was named, was a distinguished Revolutionary patriot. Upon the resignation of John Hancock he was appointed president of the General Congress in November, 1777. He was captured by the British while on his way to Holland to negotiate a treaty with the United Netherlands in 1780 and was committed to the Tower on the 6th of October. He was eventually discharged and was appointed by Congress one of the ministers for negotiating peace with Great Britain, in conjunction with Dr. Franklin, John Adams and John Jay. He signed the preliminaries of peace on November 30, 1782, and then returned to Carolina, where he died 10 years later.

Fort Campus Martius was erected by the Ohio Company of Associates at Marietta, its erection being begun under the direction of Gen. Rufus Putnam, on April 7, 1788. It was not finally completed with palisades and outworks or bastions, until the winter of 1790. The walls, which formed a regular parallelogram, were each 180 feet long. At each corner was a strong block-house surmounted by a tower or sentry box, 26 feet square at the base, and at the top 20 feet, with projection of 6 feet beyond the main walls of the fort. The buildings within the inclosure were constructed of whip-sawed timber about 4 inches thick, dove-tailed at the corners and covered with shingle roofs, each room of which had fire-places and brick chimneys. The towers and bastions were bright with whitewash. The first court ever held in the Northwest Territory was opened in the northwest block-house of Campus Martius (Marietta), August 2, 1788, and was held during the Indian war. At the close of the war and until the old Court House of Washington County was built, the courts were held in the upper story of a block-house at the junction of the Muskingum River with the Ohio. The first Washington County Court House was built in 1798.

Fort Barbee was erected by Colonel Barbee near the west bank of the St. Mary's River, on the site of what afterwards became a Lutheran cemetary, in the town of St. Marys.

Fort Jennings was erected by Colonel Jennings' regiment in September, 1812, by order of General Harrison. It was intermediate between St. Marys and Defiance, and was situated in what is now Putnam County.

Fort Dillies was erected in 1792 on the west side of the Ohio, opposite Grave Creek, in what is now Belmont County.

Fort McArthur was built in January, 1813, in Hardin County, at the head of the Scioto River, and on General Hull's road, three miles southwest of the present city of Kenton, and was named after Gen. Duncan McArthur.

He built two block-houses on the south side of the Scioto, each 20 by 24 feet, connected by a strong blockade, covering an area of near half an acre.

Fort Meigs was erected by General Harrison, February 1, 1813, at the Maumee Rapids, in Wood County, and named by him in honor of Governor Meigs, of Ohio. General Proctor with the British forces, and Tecumseh with the Indians, were defeated at the siege of Fort Meigs. The fort was of an oblong shape, with bastions and block-houses, with two transverses running from one end to the other. It originally covered about 10 acres of ground, but through the action of the elements it rapidly disappeared.

Fort Miami was at the foot of the Maumee Rapids, seven miles from Fort Deposit, and stood on the northwestern bank of the Maumee, near where Maumee City now stands.

Fort Necessity was built June 22, 1812, by Colonel Findlay, on the road from Fort McArthur to Blanchard's Fork, and is situated near what is now the town of Dunkirk, in Hardin County.

Fort Findlay.—A block-house called Fort Findlay was built at Blanchard's Fork June 25, 1812.

Fort Ball was erected opposite the site of the present city of Tiffin, on the west bank of the Sandusky River. It was a small stockade with a ditch, occupying about one-third of an acre, and was used principally as a military depot.

CHAPTER II

COUNTY ORGANIZATION AND HISTORY

Mercer County was erected April 1, 1820, by virtue of an act of the State Legislature for the erection of counties in Northwestern Ohio, which was passed February 12, 1820. This act provides that "all that part of lands lately ceded by the Indians to the United States, which lies within the State of Ohio, shall be and the same is hereby erected into fourteen separate and distinct counties, to be * * * named as follows: Van Wert, Mercer, Putnam, Allen, Hancock, Hardin, Crawford, Richland, Seneca, Sandusky, Wood, Henry, Paulding and Williams." Mercer County, according to the provisions of this act, was to include all of ranges 1, 2, 3 and 4, south of Van Wert County to the northern boundaries of counties theretofore organized. The same act also provided that Van Wert and Mercer counties be attached to Darke County until otherwise ordered. Mercer County was subsequently detached, in 1824, and Van Wert, in October, 1837. Mercer County was organized by an act of the Legislature, dated January 2, 1824, Celina being named as the county seat. The county originally contained approximately 576 square miles of land, with 4 townships, but at present its area is 460 square miles, with 14 townships. The Legislature of 1849 carved out the county of Auglaize, and in so doing took a portion of Mercer County from the eastern side. Mercer County was partially compensated for this loss in area by having set over to it that part of Darke County lying north of its present northern boundary line and south of the old Indian boundary line. The county is bounded on the north by Van Wert County, on the east by Auglaize, on the south by Darke and on the west by the State of Indiana.

GEN. HUGH MERCER.

Mercer County was named in honor of Gen. Hugh Mercer, a distinguished officer of the Revolution, who was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1723 and educated in the university there, where he studied medicine. He

served as surgeon's mate in the army of Prince Charles Edward, the hero of the civil war of 1745, in the battle of Culloden. In 1746 he came to America and settled in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, within a few miles of the site of the present town of Mercersburg. In Braddock's expedition, in 1755, as lieutenant-colonel, he commanded a regiment of volunteers. He also took part in the expedition under Col. John Armstrong against Kittanning, 20 miles from Fort Du Quesne, serving under a commission as captain. Upon the capture of Fort Du Quesne by Gen. John Forbes, on November 25, 1758, Captain Mercer was placed in charge with 280 men. He made immediate provision for the securing of that post, which had cost so much blood and

GEN. HUGH MERCER

treasure. A small fortification was thrown up on the bank of the Monongahela and named Fort Pitt in honor of the English minister. Col. Hugh Mercer was its first commandant. In the Revolutionary struggle he was commissioned brigadier-general by Congress and took a prominent part until he was mortally wounded on the battle-field of Princeton, January 3, 1777, dying 10 days later. He was buried at Princeton, but his body was afterwards brought to Philadelphia and buried in Christ Churchyard. On November 26, 1840, his remains were disinterred and removed with appropriate honor to the Laurel Hill Cemetery, where a monument was erected by the St. Andrew Society.

POLITICAL DIVISIONS OF THE COUNTY.

These consist of the 14 townships, viz., Black Creek, Dublin, Union, Center, Jefferson, Franklin, Marion, Granville, Gibson, Recovery, Washington, Liberty, Hopewell and Butler. Of these, Liberty, Black Creek, Dublin, Washington and Union are regularly bounded as congressional townships,

GREENE COUNTY ROOM
GREENE COUNTY DISTRICT LIBRARY
P. O. BOX 520
XENIA, OHIO 45385

six miles square, each containing an area of 36 square miles. The other townships are of different areas, each containing less than a regular township except Marion, which is over large and somewhat disturbed as to sections, as are also Granville, Gibson and Recovery townships, by the course of the old Greenville treaty boundary line. The townships themselves, and the villages within their borders, will be found appropriately treated under the head of "Townships."

WATER COURSES.

The St. Mary's River rises in Auglaize County, passes Mendon in Union township, Rockford in Dublin township, and thence flows through the northeast corner of Black Creek township into Van Wert County.

The Wabash River rises in the "hog prairie," about four miles south of Fort Recovery, on the county line between Mercer and Darke counties. Thence it flows east through the Cranberry Swamp in Granville township, through the south side of Recovery township, passes by Fort Recovery, thence meandering east of north through Washington township, thence west through the southwest corner of Liberty township into the State of Indiana.

Big Beaver Creek rises in Marion township, flows north through Franklin township to Montezuma, through the western part of the Grand Reservoir at Celina, due west through the northwest corner of Washington township into the south-central part of Liberty township, and there connects with the Wabash River.

Little Beaver Creek rises southwest of Philothea, and empties into the Big Beaver in section 6, Jefferson township.

NATURAL DRAINAGE.

The natural slope of the whole county is toward the north, and the small streams which take their rise between the ridges run uniformly in that direction. Encountering the ridges, they unite to form one stream along the upper or outer side of each ridge, which then flows diagonally across the general slope toward the west or northwest, following the direction of these barriers. Thus the small streams which form the Wabash rise in Darke County or the extreme southern part of Mercer, and run north till they meet the St. John's Ridge, when they are diverted westward. Before the Wabash leaves the county, it crosses this barrier near Fort Recovery, owing, probably, to the very gravelly character and the rolling surface of the drift prevailing in that section, and then follows the natural, direct descent till it meets the Wabash Ridge. This it is not able to pass, but follows it into Indiana. It finally is carried in this way over the great watershed; or, rather, the great

watershed verges so far north as to appear on the other side of this ridge, allowing the Wabash to join the Ohio toward the south. A number of other streams of Mercer County are in the same way diverted westward by the Wabash Ridge. On the north of this ridge, the streams have a northerly direction to their union with the St. Mary's, when, with it, they are carried along the southern side of the St. Mary's Ridge till, meeting the St. Joseph, at Fort Wayne, Indiana, their united waters have succeeded in passing the ridge.

SURFACE FEATURES AND SOIL.

The surface of the whole county is a continuous plain, without undulations worthy of mention. The northern part of the county finds drainage through the St. Mary's River, while the central and southern part finds a watershed through the Grand Reservoir (now called "Lake Mercer" by the citizens of Celina) and its outlet, Big Beaver Creek, this stream flowing westward until it enters the Wabash River near the Indiana line. The changes of level in general are due to the inclination of the rocky floor beneath. Gentle undulations and local changes of level are, however, due to the condition of the drift deposit. In no county of Northwestern Ohio has that dependence been seen more perfectly exemplified. The whole county is underlain by the same member of the Silurian age, except a small area in the northeastern corner, which does not offer such differences of character as to permit unequal erosion by the great glacier. Yet there may be seen crossing the county three successive ridges, or belts of thickening of the drift deposit, which rise from 10 to 25 or 30 feet above the general level. It is only necessary to say at this place that they are believed to be glacial moraines, marking periodical resting-places in the retreat of the glacier, which was prolonged southwestward from the great St. Lawrence Valley. In crossing these ridges in a southerly direction, the face of the country is seen to change, not uniformly, but by successive stages, marked by the location of the ridges. That part of the county north of the St. Mary's Ridge is flat, and has a close, often damp, clay soil. That portion between the Wabash and the St. Mary's ridges is also flat, but is characterized by several prairie tracts. It shows very rarely any gravel in the soil or stones on the surface. It is also, strictly, a portion of the Black Swamp, and has all its features. Between the Wabash and the St. John's ridges, the surface has a very noticeably rolling contour, although with some flats. The soil is sometimes gravelly. The color of the clay is somewhat lighter, and in general it is more easily subjected to perfect artificial drainage. That portion of the county south of the St. John's Ridge is still more gravelly and rolling.

GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE.

The only rock seen in outcrop within the limits of Mercer County belongs to the Guelph phase of the Niagara. These exposures, however, extend over the entire length of the county from north to south, and there can be but little doubt that that rock underlies the greater part of the county. It has not been seen in the eastern portion. Near Fort Recovery, section 19, it is slightly worked and burned for quicklime, and also in Jefferson township, about six miles west of Celina, it is worked and burned for lime. In the case of the lime burned at Fort Recovery the stone is taken from the bed of the Wabash River; while in Jefferson township it is taken from the bed of Big Beaver Creek. It is porous and fossiliferous, in beds of three to six inches. It is generally of a light blue color with spots of a darker blue, weathering buff or white. It makes a white lime of great quickness and strength. The Niagara is again seen in the Wabash, the northwest quarter of section 33, Washington township, and near the same place at the junction of the Totti Creek with the Wabash. It appears again in the Wabash, the northwest quarter of section 22, of the same township. It is also said to have been formerly taken from the Wabash at Monterey for quicklime. In sections 7 and 8, Jefferson township, the Niagara rises near the surface of the drift and is seen in a number of exposures. The stone is here similar to that seen in the Wabash at Fort Recovery. The beds are about three inches in thickness, lenticular, vesicular, fossiliferous, rapidly rusting with peroxide of iron. It finally weathers a light buff. Exposure, about three deep; dip, undistinguishable. On the southwest quarter of section 8, a quarry was opened to the depth of about four feet. On the northwest quarter of section 8, was a quarry in the same beds. The dip is here unmistakable, and about eight degrees to the southwest. The beds are here exposed to the depth of about nine feet, without showing much variation. In the State survey of the Wabash for ditching purposes, the surveyor reports rock struck at 13 different places, in all cases but one covered with alluvium or drift, sometimes to the depth of 11 feet. As an instance, the fact may be cited that three miles west of Celina lime rock is found almost on a level with the surrounding country, yet in the town of Celina and east of it the drift has been penetrated to depth varying from 70 to 80 feet without reaching the underlying rock. It is said to have a dip to the south. On the northeast quarter of section 32, Liberty township, they have taken stone from the bed of the Wabash. Near the State line they have quarries in the valley of the Wabash, on opposite sides of the stream. It is here of the same character as already described, and belongs to the Guelph phase of the Niagara. This character of the formation prevails as far west at least as New Corydon, in Jay County, Indiana, where it is quarried and burned for lime. It is also met at

Wilshire, in Van Wert County, where they have burned lime and taken out stone for foundations from the bed of the St. Mary's and of a small stream tributary to it. The dip here can not be made out with certainty. It is a porous and fossiliferous rock, in beds of about three inches, of a light blue color when freshly broken, but which soon weathers buff. On section 8, Dublin township, within the limits of the Godfrey Indian Reserve, a quarry in the river bottoms of the St. Mary's discloses the same character of the Niagara. Pieces which were gathered near the opening are porous, and bleached nearly white. This stone here affords a quicklime of superior quality. Stone was formerly taken from the bed of the St. Mary's River at Mendon. It is believed to be the same as at Rockford.

The Drift.—The characters of this deposit are such as prevail throughout the Black Swamp generally, although much of the southern part of the county is more broken and gravelly. Its chief constituent is clay, which, below 10 or 12 feet, is blue, but to that depth is of a yellowish or light brown color. The original color of the whole was probably blue, the brown or yellow colors being due to oxidation from above. No distinct, constant characters, or line of demarcation separating the brown from the blue, indicative of different or successive origins or depositions, have been seen in the county, nor in Northwestern Ohio. On the contrary, the colors have been seen to gradually fade into each other in a great many instances. This clay is usually a compact, unstratified mass, impervious to water and embracing stones and bowlders of all sizes up to several tons weight. At Mercer, in Dublin township, and throughout a radius of four or five miles, it acts as a confining stratum for a number of artesian wells, which flow from the sand at the depth of 35 to 40 feet, the water rising from five to eight feet above the surface. Such wells may be seen near Celina, on the north side of the Big Beaver Creek. It has afforded a great number of bowlders of the Lower Corniferous, some of which have been worked into stone for building. They are met near the surface in ploughing the field. One was worked up on the land of Mr. Petre, which furnished eight of ten wagon-loads of good blocks, suitable for common building purposes. The ridges which cross the county consist of gravel and sand in glacial stratification, usually overspread by a few feet of this clay. The thickness of the drift cannot be stated. A well at Rockford was in the blue clay, at a depth of 60 feet, without water.

MATERIAL RESOURCES.

The soil of Mercer County will necessarily always be the source of its greatest material wealth. It will, however, reach its highest development and yield its greatest revenue only when it has been subjected to thorough artificial drainage, and to careful and skillful tillage. The forest that once

covered the soil is now cleared, and beautiful farms dot the county from one end to the other, well drained and in a high state of cultivation; the buildings are of modern structure, up to date in every particular.

THE GRAND RESERVOIR OR LAKE MERCER.

It has been claimed for this reservoir, which supplies the St. Mary's feeder of the Miami Extension Canal (from which it is situated three miles west), that it is the largest artificial lake on the globe. It is nine miles long, from three to five miles in width, covers an area of 17,600 acres of ground and has an average depth of 10 feet. It is bounded on the north by Jefferson township, on the south by Franklin township, on the west by Butler township, Mercer County, and on the east by Auglaize County. One-third of the reservoir is in Auglaize County, and the remaining two-thirds in Mercer County, its western end being in the corporate limits of Celina, the county seat of Mercer County.

The reservoir was commenced in 1837 and completed in 1845, at an expense of $600,000. The west embankment was completed in 1843. The water filled in at the upper end to the depth of several feet, but, as the ground rose gradually to the east, it overflowed for several miles to the depth of a few inches only. The inhabitants, to the number of about 150, fearing that this vast body of water, exposed to the rays of the sun, would, if allowed to remain, produce disease, with spades and shovels made a passage for the water through the enbankment. It cost several thousand dollars to repair it.

From the *Mercer County Standard,* of April, 1871, we learn the following facts with regard to Lake Mercer:

"Long before the location of this reservoir, several adventurers bought and settled within the prairie, now forming the reservoir. Among these were Thomas and Joseph Coate, Messrs. Mellinger, Large, Hugh, Miller and others, all on the south side. On the north side were Messrs. Sunday, Crockett, Bradley, Judge Linzee, Hollingsworth, Nicholls, Gipson, Hull, Kompf, Pratt and Rev. Asa Steams, all good and true men, and noble specimens of the frontier.

"Mr. Mitchell, an engineer, in 1830 ran the first line around the reservoir, and Samuel Farrer was the commissioner, who reported to the General Assembly, after they had examined the bank, that it would cost $90,000. Subsequently, in 1837, it was again run by Messrs. Barney and Farrer, compassing a circumference of 18,000 acres. In the same year all the timber outside the prairie was let for deadening, which was done by the contractors of the several locations. When the left bank was let to Messrs. Giddings, Stepson and Hottsbecker, it was let from a point south of Celina, a distance of 120 rods, at 37 cents per entire yard, and was to be wharfed with good

AUDITORIUM, CHAUTAUQUA GROUNDS, CELINA

BOULEVARD ALONG LAKE MERCER

(A public drive of over four miles)

SCENE ON MERCER COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS

A PIONEER HOME, MERCER COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS

(Erected and owned by Mercer County Pioneer Association)

white oak planks, two inches thick. Henry L. Johnson, late sheriff of Mercer County, sawed the lumber.

"Justin Hamilton, the member of the Legislature from this county, introduced a resolution into that body, which was adopted unanimously, declaring, 'that no water should be let into the reservoir before the same should be cleared of timber and the parties paid for this land.' An appropriation of $20,000 was made by the Legislature to pay the owners of the land, but it was squandered by the officers and land speculators.

"When the banks were finished and the water let in, it submerged all but one acre for Mr. Sunday with 34 acres of wheat, 15 for Mrs. Crockett, the whole of Thomas Coate's land, 60 acres with several thousand rails for Judge Holt, of Dayton, who owned a farm two miles east of Celina, 19 acres of Judge Linzee, nearly 40 acres of Abraham Pratt, with all the rails thereto belonging, and the whole of Mellinger's farm except a few acres around the house, besides great damage to others on the south side.

"This outrage on the part of the officers of the State was too much to be borne by the people of Mercer County. Wars have been proclaimed on less pretenses. America declared her independence, and refused to pay a small tax on her tea, which of itself was not oppressive, but it was oppressive in principle, and the people would not be taxed without the consent of their own Legislature. Mercer County followed the example and declared she would not be imposed upon by the authorities of Ohio.

"On May 3, 1843, a meeting was held in Celina, Samuel Ruckman (county commissioner) acting as president. It was unanimously resolved that Benjamin Linzee, Esq., should go to Piqua, the headquarters of the Board of Public Works, and lay their grievances, with an address, before them.' Mr. Linzee, having performed his duty, Messrs. Spencer and Ramsey returned the sneering answer, 'Help yourself, if you can.'

"On May 12th the meeting requested Mr. Linzee to return to Piqua with the answer, that if they did not pay for the land and let off the water, they would cut the bank on the 15th. The reply came back, 'The Piqua Guards will be with you and rout you on that day.' When this response was heard by the people, the muttering around the reservoir was not only loud but deep—every person was excited.

"On the morning of the 15th, by seven o'clock, more than 100 citizens, with shovels, spades and wheelbarrows, were on the spot ready for work. The place selected was the strongest on the bank in the old Beaver channel. The object of the people was not to damage the State, and the dirt was wheeled back on the bank on each side. It employed the men one day and a half before the cutting was complete, and was dug six feet below the level of the water, and a flimsy breastwork was made to hold the water back.

VIEW ON THE GRAND RESERVOIR IN 1846.
(Drawn by Henry Howe)
From Howe's "Historical Collections of Ohio."

When the tools were taken out and all was ready, Samuel Ruckman said, 'Who will start the water?' 'I,' said John Sunday; 'I,' said Henry Linzee; and in a moment the meandering waters were hurtling down 50 yards below the bank. It was six weeks before the water subsided.

"As soon as this was known at headquarters, warrants were issued for the arrest of all who were engaged in the work. Thirty-four of the leaders, comprising all the county officers, judges, sheriff, clerk, auditor, treasurer, deputy treasurer, recorder and surveyor, with merchants, farmers and private citizens, were all arrested and bound over to the next term of court. The grand jury refused to find a bill of misdemeanor, and so the matter ended. It cost the State $17,000 to repair the damages.

"We add the names of those who resisted the oppressive movements of the State in cutting the west bank of the reservoir: Judge Robert Linzee, J. S. Houston, surveyor; Frank Linzee, clerk of the court; Joseph Carlin, sheriff; Frederick Schroeder, auditor; L. D. McMahon, recorder; B. Linzee, deputy treasurer; Samuel Ruckman, commissioner; H. Trenary, B. Mowery, Porter Pratt, Elias Miller, M. D. Smith, Mr. Allen (tavern keeper), Eli Dennison, John Sunday and all his family, the Crockett boys, Thomas and Joseph Coate, Britton and son, Abm. Miller, Dr. Beauchamp (from Montezuma), Matthew, Frank, Gray, Ellis, and Hugh Miller, with a hundred others who came through curiosity or some other purpose."

In years past Lake Mercer furnished fish of almost every variety and was the source of a considerable revenue to those who dwelt on its banks, for many thousand barrels of fish, caught in its waters, were shipped to markets many miles distant, always meeting with a ready sale. At the present time, the fish are nearly all gone, but the Game and Fish Commission of the

State are making an effort to restock it with black bass and other fine, edible fish and at no distant period it is expected that fish in abundance will once more be found in the lake.

In the winter season, it furnishes as fine a field of ice for packing purposes as can be found anywhere. The frozen surface of the lake also invites those who delight to indulge in the sports of skating and ice-boating.

In the spring and autumn of each year, wild ducks and geese gather here in large and almost incredible numbers, furnishing excellent sport for the hunters who come from far and near.

For many years boating on Lake Mercer has been a popular pasttime and many fine pleasure boats float on its placid waters. As early as 1850-51, a Mr. Doyle, of Dayton, owned a steamboat, which ran between Celina and St. Marys on the Grand Reservoir.

Since the completion of the Lake Erie & Western, the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton and the Cincinnati Northern railroads through Celina, together with the Western Ohio traction line, Lake Mercer has attracted great numbers of hunters and fishermen from all parts of Ohio and Indiana and is becoming better known with each succeeding year. Aside from this, large parties, constituting excursions, from all parts of the country, visit here during the summer season simply as a place of recreation, as it offers inducements to those desiring excellent boating, hunting and fishing.

THE CELINA CHAUTAUQUA ASSEMBLY.

In the summer of 1905, in the beautiful grove or park of the old Fair Grounds, located on the north bank of Lake Mercer, the Celina Chautauqua Assembly held its first session, which was attended by thousands of people from all sections of the country, great numbers camping in tents on the grounds during the entire session. The assembly met with such an unparalleled success the first season, that a large auditorium was erected for the accommodation of its patrons. The assembly has secured the best talent in the land and its attractions are recognized as equaling those of the best Chautauquas in the country. It is under the management of Milton I. Brown of Cincinnati, manager; John E. Hamburger, of Celina, superintendent of grounds; and Ira Crampton, of Celina, secretary. The officers, as well as the citizens of Celina generally, are very generously supporting it, believing that it will prove to be a great education, both moral and intellectual, to the entire community.

MERCER COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION.

The first meeting of the Mercer County Pioneer Association was held in Moore's Grove at Mendon in the fall of 1882, at which meeting an organiza-

tion was effected, Dr. David F. Parrott being chosen president and James Shepherd, secretary. The officers for 1883 and 1884 were Thomas Upton and James Shepherd, president and secretary, respectively. J. W. Presho was president and T. W. Murlin, secretary, in 1885. Smith H. Clark and T. W. Murlin served respectively as president and secretary in 1886 and 1887. The officers for 1888 and 1889 were: J. W. Presho, president; T. W. Murlin, secretary; and J. M. Hussey, treasurer. In 1890 Moses Townsend became president; A. H. Roebuck, secretary; and Alexander Partner, treasurer. The following year the president was Thomas J. Godfrey; secretary, A. H. Roebuck; and treasurer, G. D. Dunathan. The officers for the years 1892, 1893 and 1894 were: Thomas J. Godfrey, president; W. F. McDaniel, secretary; and G. D. Dunathan, treasurer. The following officers served for the years 1895, 1896, 1897 and 1898: Thomas J. Godfrey, president; Henry Lennartz, secretary; and G. D. Dunathan, treasurer. The officers in 1899 were W. F. McDaniel, president; Henry Lennartz, secretary; and Calvin E. Riley, treasurer. Mr. Riley has continued in office as treasurer from that time to this. In 1900 J. S. Rhodes became president, Mr. Lennartz continuing to act as secretary. In 1901 J. F. Timmons was elected president and R. H. Chapman, secretary; the latter has ever since contiued to fill the office of secretary. In 1902 S. A. Nickerson succeeded Mr. Timmons as president and continued in office until 1906 when A. H. Roebuck became president. The present officers are as follows: A. H. Roebuck, president; R. H. Chapman, secretary; and Calvin E. Riley, treasurer.

The constitution and by-laws of the association were adopted at the meeting held at Mendon in 1892. Colonel Mott and Hon. F. C. LeBlond were the orators at the meeting of 1893. The association held its annual meetings at Mendon up to 1894 in which year the change was made to Celina, where they have ever since been held. The 1894 meeting was addressed by Hon. Caleb H. Norris, of Marion, Ohio, on the topic—"Early History of Northwestern Ohio." In 1895 the association was addressed by Hon. G. M. Saltzgaber, of Van Wert, Ohio; topic—"The Wilderness of Northwestern Ohio." In 1896 the meeting was held in a large tent on the old Fair Grounds; the orator of the day was Rev. O. S. Green. At this meeting a committee was appointed to erect an old-fashioned pioneer cabin on the Fair Grounds, of which committee Smith H. Clark was chairman. John Betz, Jacob Leininger, Stephen Howick and other pioneers assisted in the work. The cabin, a view of which appears elsewhere in this work, was built and furniture of the old times placed therein. At the meeting of the association held in 1897 David Money, a pioneer of Jay County, Indiana, and J. R. Oliver, a native of England, but a pioneer of Mercer County, entertained the people with reminiscences of former days. Prizes of $5 each were awarded to James Morrissey,

99 years old, a native of Ireland, who was reported to be the oldest man present at the meeting, and to Sophronia Nuss, 96 years old, a native of Germany, the oldest woman present. At the meeting held in 1898, Fred Smith, 92 years old, and Margaret Hiles, 84 years old, were the oldest pioneers present. Hon. C. M. Anderson, of Darke County, addressed the association in 1899 on the acquisition of more territory by the United States. A. M. Tracy, aged 90 years, was the oldest man present, and Catharine Beam, aged 87 years, the oldest woman. In 1900 Hon. H. C. Glenn, of Van Wert, and Hon. F. C. LeBlond addressed the meeting and reviewed old times. M. M. Newcomb was awarded the prize offered to that pioneer who was the longest married in the county and present at the meeting, his record being 52 years. In 1901 Prof. J. F. Lumb, the blind orator, made the address.

The association meets in the new Fair Grounds at Celina on the first or second Thursday of August each year. The executive committee, composed of six members, has the program of events for each meeting in charge. Every person who has lived in the county for 50 years is a pioneer.

AGRICULTURE.

The earliest farmers of Mercer County had to contend with innumerable obstacles; with the wildness of Nature, the attacks of Indians and wild beasts upon their stock, the difficulty of obtaining farming implements and seeds, and with conditions of climate and soil, very different from those of the old countries whence they derived all their methods. The pioneer farmer was compelled to use the crudest methods. He cut down, heaped and burned the small trees and undergrowth, and belted the large ones. He scratched the surface a little with a home-made plow, and cultivated his corn and tobacco with a wooden hoe. He harvested the crop that Nature gave him in a careless manner and used it wastefully. He cultivated the same field until it was worn out, when he cleared another and moved his family near to it. So long as land was so abundant, no attention was paid to the conservation of the fertility of the soil. This country was so large and fertile that it took the people a long time to find out that there was any limit to its productiveness. These conditions were quite sufficient to explain the slow progress made in agriculture in the early development of the county.

DRAINING THE LAND.

The land of the county is generally level. In an early day, swamps and marshes were found in many parts of the county, rendering the land unfit for cultivation. A study of how to bring about the profitable cultivation of the wet land was a question that sorely puzzled the progressive farmer, but

the problem was solved by the drainage of the land. The first system of drainage was a rude affair, but it was the best that could be done. Plenty of material was found near at hand, the ditch was made and then the drain—made of planks in the form of boxes without ends—was laid. This wooden drain proved but a temporary makeshift, however, and soon became useless as the wood decayed and the ditch became filled with dirt. As the county became older associations were organized, which took up the discussion of subjects pertaining to the interests of the farmers, the tile mill was built for manufacturing drain tile. This solved the question of how to remove the surplus water and the farmer, aided also by wise legislation on the drainage question, was no longer bothered by having his crops drowned out by an overflow of heavy rainfall, the soil became more productive, and the result was that abundant crops were raised. With all this progress came in due time the improved machinery for planting and harvesting the crop.

FARMERS' INSTITUTES AND COUNTY FAIRS

Have been great help-mates in the progress made in farming during the past 35 years. In the beginning they were rather small and but slimly attended and the attractions were not such as to draw the public generally, but it was found that by having attractions in which people were interested there was a material increase in attendance, which swelled the receipts. By having good speakers at the Farmers' Institutes, and such attractions at the county fairs as the times demand, they have grown to be places of amusement and profit. In a measure, the county fair has been the means of bringing about the raising of better grades of stock, and the using of better and more improved farming implements and machinery, which has resulted in the securing of better prices for all the products raised on the farm. The Grange, an institution of not many years ago, was for the benefit of the farmer and was run by and for this class of people, but it had its day and in its place a system of Farmers' Institutes was organized. These are held in different localities in the county as stated times and are well officered by a president, secretary and treasurer. At the institute meetings lectures are given on subjects that pertain to the welfare of those interesed in agriculture and stock-raising.

MERCER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This society was organized many years ago. For the first few years of its existence, the attempt was made to keep it up by means of the gate receipts at the annual county fairs held under its auspices, but these receipts fell far short of paying the premiums and the running expenses. The county fairs for the past 10 years have been self-sustaining. In the dark days of the

society, the county came to its aid and to pay the society's debt and keep the institution alive raised money by issuing bonds, which were met by a tax levy.

The exact date of the first fair cannot be obtained, but it was probably about 1857 or 1858. It was held on the east side of the town of Celina, on the north bank of the Grand Reservoir, on a plot of ground owned at that time by the State of Ohio, containing about 17 or 18 acres, which is the present location of the Celina Chautauqua Assembly. It is a beautiful tract of land overlooking the Grand Reservoir—Lake Mercer—and the native oak and elm trees furnish an abundance of shade. The deed records show that the society in February, 1872, purchased this tract of land from the State of Ohio, and upon this the annual fairs were held until recently. In June, 1878, the society, foreseeing the necessity of more ample grounds for the yearly meetings, bought 21.32 acres of land for $1,900 from the Brandon heirs, on the west side and adjoining the town, which tract constitutes the present Fair Grounds, where the society holds its annual meetings. On November 2, 1893, the society purchased from John W. De Ford a tract of 180 acres adjoining the ground already owned by it, paying therefor the sum of $2,700. The size of the Fair Grounds is therefore in excess of 39 acres. Here a first-class, regulation track for speeding horses has been built. A large amphitheatre, located on the south side of the race track, will seat from 3,000 to 4,000 people. The other buildings on the grounds for the accommodation of the visitors are modern and well adapted to the purposes for which they were built. The society has been to great expense in erecting buildings and in otherwise improving the grounds for the accommodation and convenience of the people. It is to-day in a prosperous condition. The fairs of to-day throughout the State are divided into circuits and a time fixed for each one to hold its yearly meeting, that of Mercer County being in August. The fair in 1906 was held from August 21st to August 24th, inclusive.

We would like very much to give the officers of the society from the first to the present time, but are unable to do so as the old records can not be found. We have been informed that a Mr. Browning was the first president. The present officers (1906) are as follows: President, C. F. Kruger; vice-president, Sol. Shock; secretary, Samuel J. Vining; treasurer, J. C. Brookhart; directors—John Birkmeir, John Chivington, Irvin Hole, B. B. Wilson, Henry Beckman, Levi Young, W. B. Doner, Barney Albers, T. W. Clark, W. R. Severn, Noah Denney and the four officers named.

The constitution of the society among other things provides as follows:

Article 1.—This organization shall be known as Mercer County Agricultural Society.

Article 2.—The object of this society will be the improvement of agricultural and horticultural productions, educational science, useful domesticated animals, domestic manufactures and the mechanical arts.

Article 3.—Every citizen of the county of the age of 21 years or over, who shall pay annually $1.00 to the treasurer of the society, on or prior to the last day of the fair, shall be a member of the society.

Article 4.—The affairs of the society shall be managed and directed by a board of fifteen directors, whose terms of service shall be two years and whose compensation shall not exceed $2.00 per day of actual service. Seven of said board shall constitute a quorum to do business. . Candidates for members of said board must be members of the society.

Article 5. (As amended)—On the last day of the fair, annually, an election shall be held to elect one-half the members of the board of directors mentioned in Article four, the polls opening at 12 M. standard time, and closing at 4 P. M. Voting will be by ballots, which will be furnished by the Society and contain the names of the persons to be voted for. Only *bona fide* members of the society will be entitled to vote. The board shall elect two clerks and two judges from its membership. Candidates for membership on the board may have their names placed on the official ballots by handing to the secretary by 6 o'clock P. M., on the second day of the fair, a written request, signed by five members of the society. Official ballots only will be counted.

NATURAL GAS AND OIL.

In the past 20 years natural gas has been a source of revenue as well as a great convenience to the citizens of nearly every town in the county, and to a great many farmers who use it for fuel and light. The first gas-wells were drilled on town lots in Celina about 1888, and not long after this a great gas field was opened in Franklin township. A gas company was formed by a syndicate of Celina citizens, known as the Celina Gas Company, who installed a gas plant in Celina and furnished the town with fuel and light for a number of years. Later a second plant was formed by home people and gas piped to the town. Finally the day came when the gas failed, and both plants were sold at a great sacrifice. The Indiana & Ohio Gas Company now furnish all the natural gas for Celina, bringing it from the vicinity of Columbus, about 140 miles distant.

The oil industry of the county followed the finding of gas. The first wells were drilled northeast of Mendon and about the same time others were drilled some miles west of Celina. The first wells ever drilled in the county were under the supervision of George H. Houser, of Celina, who has made and lost a fortune in the oil business, but who still believes there is a fortune in drilling for oil in Mercer County. At first oil sold at 15 cents a barrel; when the best wells were drilled, about 1890 to 1893, the price was 78 cents per barrel. It may be stated that oil has been discovered in every part of the county. In the northwest part of the county a great oil field has been opened up and a great many good wells drilled; in the northeast part of the county, drilling has been going on for a number of years and several companies have good and paying plants. Southwest from Celina a new territory has been developed with a number of paying wells, and no doubt is entertained but that the entire part of that section of the county is underlaid with gas and oil.

COLONIZATION OF COLORED PEOPLE—EMLEN INSTITUTE.

In the late '30's, Augustus Wattles, a native of Connecticut, founded a colony of colored people, amounting to several hundred, scattered through the townships of Marion, Granville and Franklin, who lived principally by agriculture, owning extensive lands. We quote his own language in regard to the settlement of these people:

"My early education, as you well know, would naturally lead me to look upon learning and good morals as of infinite importance in a land of liberty. In the winter of 1833-34, I providentially became acquainted with the colored population of Cincinnati, and found about 4,000 totally ignorant of everything calculated to make good citizens. Most of them had been slaves, shut out from every avenue of moral and mental improvement. I started a school for them and kept it up with two hundred pupils for two years. I then proposed to the colored people to move into the country and purchase land, and remove from those contaminating influences which had so long crushed them in our cities and villages. They promised to do so, provided I would accompany them and teach school. I travelled through Canada, Michigan and Indiana looking for a suitable location, and finally settled here, thinking this place contained more natural advantages than any other unoccupied country within my knowledge. In 1835 I made the first purchase for colored people in this (Mercer) county. In about three years they owned not far from 30,000 acres. I had travelled into almost every colored neighborhood in the State and laid before them the benefits of a permanent home for themselves and of education for their children. In my first journey through the State I established by the assistance and co-operation of abolitionists, twenty-five schools for colored children. I collected of the colored people such money as they had to spare, and entered land for them. Many, who had no money, afterwards succeeded in raising some, and brought it to me. With this I bought land for them.

"I purchased for myself 190 acres of land to establish a manual labor school for colored boys. I had sustained a school on it, at my own expense, till the 11th of November, 1842. Being in Philadelphia the winter before, I became acquainted with the trustees of the late Samuel Emlen, of New Jersey, a Friend. He left by his will $20,000 for the 'support and education in school learning and the mechanical arts and agriculture, of such boys of African and Indian descent, whose parents would give them up to the institute.' We united our means, and they purchased my farm and appointed me the superintendent of the establishment, which they called the Emlen Institute."

Henry Howe, in his "Historical Collections of Ohio," says: "In 1846

Judge Leigh, of Virginia, purchased 3,200 acres of land in this settlement for the freed slaves of John Randolph, of Roanoke. These arrived in the summer of 1846, to the number of about 400, but were forcibly prevented from making a settlement by a portion of the inhabitants of the county. Since then acts of hostility have been commenced against the people of this settlement, and threats of greater held out, if they do not abandon their lands and homes."

In Van Buren township, Shelby County, about 400 colored persons settled. An attempt was made in July, 1846, to colonize with them 385 of the emancipated slaves of John Randolph, of Virginia, after they were driven from Mercer County, and scattered in Miami and Shelby counties.

In Brown County two large settlements of colored persons, amounting to about 500 each, were made. One was three miles north of Georgetown, and the other was in the northeast part of the county, 16 miles distant. They emigrated from Virginia, and were the slaves of Samuel Gest, who manumitted and settled them upon two large surveys of land.

In the office of the clerk of the courts of Mercer County is a manuscript docket, entitled "Record of Free Blacks," in which are the following entries:

"State of Kentucky, Mason County, June 21, 1842. John James Key, clerk of said Court, certifies that at the April Court, 1832, Thomas Bowles produced his certificate of his being a free man from the corporation of Lynchburg, Virginia, which was ordered to be recorded, he being thirty-five years of age, of black complexion, five feet nine and a half inches high, which certificate bears date March 29, 1826.

"On December 21, 1842, Thomas Bowles registered his son, aged twenty years, five feet six and a half inches high, bushy head, and heavy made, mulatto color, with a scar in the upper edge of the right eyebrow.—FRANKLIN LINZEE, *Clerk.*"

"North Carolina, Northampton County, March 4, 1834. Richard H. Weaver, clerk of the Court, certifies that David Mitchell is thirty-six years of age, five feet six inches high, light complexion, and a scar on the left side of the left leg, and a blacksmith.

"Also, that Jenny Mitchell, his wife, is free born, thirty-three years of age, four feet five inches high, light complexion, and dark hair.

"Mrs. Elizabeth Moore, on August 25, 1826, of the county of Harrison, Kentucky, but now resident in Clermont County, Ohio, emancipated a negro woman named Dorcas, and eight children, viz., Mintee, Henry, Charles, Denison, Rachel, George, Alfred, and William, which deed is recorded December 30, 1830, in the clerk's office of Mercer County, Ohio.—JAMES W. RILEY, *Clerk.*

"May 21, 1833. Israel Alexander Thomas, of Hardy County, Virginia, registered himself as 24 years of age, five feet, nine and one-half inches high, in that Court, and afterwards at Mercer County, Ohio, December 21, 1850.—Jas. W. Riley, *Clerk.*"

"Burrell Archer and Martha, his wife, December 25, 1850.

"Benjamin King, Esq., formerly of Iredell, North Carolina, but now of Washington County, Indiana, manumitted his negro man, Squire Knox, forty years of age, entered of record December 30, 1850, and at the same time Squire Knox entered his wife, Rachel Jane Knox, thirty-six years of age, four feet six inches high, light color, with straight hair, and well made. Also Thomas Delaney, aged fourteen years, and Solomon Delaney, aged eight years, with brown skin and curly hair. Squire Knox also registered his own children, born of Rachel Jane Knox, viz., George and Sarah, with brown skin and curly hair.—James Watson Riley, *Clerk.*

"State of Alabama, August 15, 1847. Guilliam Nicholson petitioned the Court presided over by Hon. H. M. McElnan, to emancipate a negro man named Thomas, and his wife, Sydney, and their children, Harry, Allen, Priscilla, Clarissa, Thomas and Franklin, which the Court decided, notice thereof having been given in the newspapers published in the town of Tuskegee, in the county of Macon, Alabama, in consideration of the long and faithful and meritorious services performed by said slaves, have emancipated and set free.

"Entered of record 1854.—H. F. Juneman, *Clerk.*"

"John Harper, of Randolph County, North Carolina, made his will December 2, 1850, admitted to probate May, 1851, manumitting his faithful and obedient servants, Francis, Julie, Sylvanie, Sandy and little Harry, and such issue as may be born of either of them, and to go to some of the free States; requiring some of his nephews, J. H. and R. G. Lindsay, to see that the slaves be permitted to have and use the following property devised for them:—

"To Harry, $250, his saddle, bridle, and martingale, with his mattress and wearing apparel.

"To Kitty, his feather bed, bedstead, and furniture in the lower room, one side saddle, one loom and his stock of bees.

"To his servant York, $100; also to York, Julie, James, Condie, and Sylva each a feather bed, bedstead, and necessary furniture. Harry to get his choice of two horses, and Kitty his wife two cows and calves, and $500 in money to be invested for their benefit; and if Harry, Kitty and their children go to Liberia or some of the free States, then Harry is to get the horses, and

Kitty the cow and also $500; but in case of Kitty's death, to be divided among her children.

"Mr. Harper also provided that if any of the white legatees of his will oppose the emancipation of his slaves, he or she shall receive no portion of his estate, but that share to be divided among the others; and if all of the legatees opposed, then one-half of his estate goes to the American Bible Society, and the other half to the Colonization Society. He also provided for the other slaves that man and wife should not be separated.

"Entered November 1, 1854. H. F. JUNEMAN, *Clerk.*"

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF MERCER COUNTY.

The idea of a free public school, maintained entirely at municipal or State expense and altogether under State and secular control, is a modern development which was not realized until the 19th century. The growth of democracy in the last hundred years has been one of the chief causes of the rapid advance of the free and secularized public school system. Only in the United States, however, has the public school system had a development such as a democratic society logically demands. A system to be truly democratic must have the following characteristics: (1) It must be free to all; (2) it must extend over all stages of education; (3) it must have what is called the educational ladder; that is, pupils must be able to pass upward freely from one grade to the next higher; and (4) it must be patronized by all classes of the community. It may fairly be claimed that the American public school system has now reached a stage where all these ends have been attained.

The people of Mercer County have ever been alert on the subject of providing good schools, which they have been able to secure under the wise legislation of the State. Believing that in the education of the children the perpetuity of our free institutions can best be preserved and the prosperity and happiness of the people be prolonged, they have always been ready to aid and assist in securing good and efficient teachers and in building good and comfortable schoolhouses. So from the log schoolhouses, with their old-fashioned fire-places, wooden benches for seats, and broad boards placed around the walls for writing desks, we now have, in all the townships of the county, large brick buildings, seated with the latest improved single seat and desk for each pupil; while the fire-places have been supplanted by furnaces. All school buildings are now modern and up-to-date, and the boy or girl of school age to-day would look upon the old schoolhouse with wonder and astonishment, and their judgment would be that it was a curiosity. There is scarcely a neighborhood in the county but that has a township high school; or, that not being the case, they have a special school district. All are eager to make the

most they can out of the advantages to be derived from their home schools, as these schools are preparatory for the college or seminary. Normal schools are conducted in the county, mostly at Celina, during the summer vacations. There was at one time a college at Coldwater, which flourished for a time, at last giving way to the public school, which is one of the best in the county. There is not a town in the county that does not boast of having the best school in the country and they make their boasts good by sending out teachers from their public schools every year. The parochial schools and religious educational institutions of the county, of which there are many important ones, will be noticed elsewhere in this work.

The public schools of Mercer County have from the beginning been free—open to all who wished to avail themselves of the opportunities offered them for obtaining an education. The first schools of the county, when the county was sparsely settled, were maintained by subscription, but this state of affairs was not of many years duration; as the county grew, in wealth as well as in population, the subscription schools gave way to the system of raising school funds by taxation for the support and maintenance of free public schools. School districts were created whenever a sufficient number of scholars of school age were found to support and maintain a school. Districts were made to accommodate the scholars—usually about two miles was the distance that the schoolhouses were apart. Each of these districts was managed and controlled by a local board of three directors, who took sole control of their special district. They employed teachers, fixed the salary and had general supervision over the school. This board was subject to a township supervision composed of one member from each sub-district. With the addition of the township clerk, who was also clerk of the School Board, the township board bought sites and built schoolhouses, and levied the taxes for their support and maintenance.

A County Board of School Examiners has always granted certificates to teachers as to their qualifications as teachers. The board has consisted of three members, appointed by the probate judge of the county, the full term of office being three years. Examiners for teachers were selected usually from the best educators of the county, nearly all of whom were active teachers until within the past years. The list of questions for teachers' examinations was left entirely with the County Board of School Examiners. As the law now is, the State Commissioner of Schools prepares a list of questions for the entire State; this list is sent to each county board.

Some of the early educators of the county were not professional teachers but were educated for other professions and for want of professional teachers they supplied the place. Among the early teachers of the Recovery township schools was Professor George, a Covenanter minister, who taught a number

of years; he was an educated man and a good teacher. Another teacher, who taught in the Franklin township schools, was George Rickoff, a learned man and a brother of A. P. Rickoff, who visited and gave instruction at the county teachers' institutes when he was school commissioner of Ohio. Among the old time educators and teachers may be named: Rev. M. W. Diggs, a Congregational minister and teacher, who taught in Gibson township; William Rood, who taught at Fort Recovery—he was a Connecticut man; and B. B. Allen, Abraham Mott, William D. Stone, Miles B. Briner, who were old teachers in the southern part of the county. You will notice that no mention is made of any women as teachers. Well, there were a few in those days. One of the best teachers that Gibson township ever had the pleasure of employing was Ada Chamberlain, a lady who came from Massachusetts on a visit to some friends, and was prevailed upon to teach one of the district schools in the southern part of the county, which so pleased everybody that her fame as a teacher went a long ways from home. This opened the way and then women were employed as teachers and gave good satisfaction. Thus the prejudice against a woman for a teacher was gradually done away with and to-day our schoolrooms are filled with lady teachers almost exclusively and they command just as good wages as men. The system of teaching and the entire management of the public schools have made great progress in the past few years. Teachers' institutes and township teachers' meetings certainly have had much to do with the advancement of education.

There are 10 township school districts, each of which is divided into sub-districts, of which there are 86 in all. Independent of the township districts, there are 38 separate school districts. Each township and each separate district has a Board of Education, made up of five members. The total number of schoolhouses in the county is 129, of which 86 are in the township districts and 43 in the separate districts. Each of the schoolhouses of the sub-districts consists of one room, making 86 rooms in all. The school buildings of the separate districts contain 87 rooms, of which 13 rooms are devoted to high school purposes. The total number of rooms in the school buildings of the county therefore, is 173. The school property of the elementary township districts is valued at $98,120, while that of the elementary saparate districts is $185,950, the aggregate valuation being $284,070. In 1905 two elementary schoolhouses were built in separate school districts, at a cost of $4,425.

In the township districts, 60 men and 31 women are employed as teachers; in the separate districts, 40 men and 34 women in the elementary schools and 9 men and 5 women in the high schools, making a total of 179 teachers employed in the county. The average monthly wages of both men and women, in the elementary schools of the township districts, and of the women, in the

elementary schools of the separate districts, is $41. The wages of the men in the elementary schools of the separate districts is $48. The men employed as teachers in the high schools of the separate districts get average monthly wages of $75, while in the high schools of the township districts, the average wages paid per month is $70. In the township districts, the average school year consists of 32 weeks, while in the separate districts it consists of 34 weeks.

HIGH SCHOOLS IN MERCER COUNTY.

First Grade.—

Celina High School (village district)—S. Wilkin, superintendent; J. W. Pogue, principal; four teachers; three rooms; 100 pupils.

Fort Recovery High School (village district)—James Ross, superintendent; Mrs. J. A. Hunter, principal; three teachers; two rooms; 57 pupils.

Second Grade.—

Mendon High School (village district)—R. E. Offenhauer, superintendend; M. O. Krugh, principal; two teachers; two rooms; 41 pupils.

Rockford High School (village district)—J. H. Barnett, superintendent; Samuel Cotterman, principal; two teachers; two rooms; 75 pupils.

St. Henry High School (village district)—H. J. Anthony, superintendent; two teachers; two rooms; 25 pupils.

Third Grade.—

Center Township High School (township district)—William A. Bair, superintendent; one room; one teacher; 32 weeks session; 24 pupils.

Coldwater High School (village district)—J. H. Tener, superintendent; one room; one teacher; 36 weeks session; 17 pupils.

Mercer High School (special district)—Alva J. Spacht, superintendent; one room; one teacher; 32 weeks session; 10 pupils.

MERCER COUNTY TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

In connection with the schools of Mercer County, we will notice the helpmates to the teachers and schools of our county. Among them, and the one most helpful, is the Mercer County Teachers' Institute, which was organized in the fall of 1859, at Celina, Ohio, with a few of the leading teachers of the county present at its first session. The fall meetings were continued only for two years. Then the institute for many years held its annual sessions at the holiday season, this being vacation week for the teachers. After a time the institute meeting was changed from the holiday season to the summer vacation, the time being in August, just before the commencement

of the fall term of school. This has proven the best season of all and is the date now fixed for holding the institute. Since its organization the institute has never failed to hold a yearly meeting. The place was first at Celina and no other place was ever thought of until recently when other towns in the county sought to be recognized. The last institute was held at Fort Recovery. Coldwater, Mendon and Rockford have also entertained the Mercer County Teachers' Institute. Since its organization, the State commissioner of schools has rarely failed to be in attendance at its yearly meetings, delivering one or more lectures. The services of other leading educators also have been secured and the institute has become one of the leading factors in the educational interest of the schools. Some of the leading educators and teachers who have taken part as instructors at our county institute in the past have been: A. P. Rickoff, William D. Stone, M. C. Culver, S. F. De Ford, W. F. McDaniel, A. G. Clark, R. W. Mitchell, John Brock, Stephen A. Armstrong, I. F. Raudabaugh, George S. Harter, James Ross, W. E. Kershner, A. C. Beaghler, J. P. Dysert, Abraham Mott, Dow Carlin, A. H. Roebuck, David Counterman, S. S. Scranton, Mrs. J. A. Hunter, Lizzie Cook, Catharine Cook, Eva Winter, Jessie Snyder, Nellie Winter, F. J. Barnard (now representing the American Book Company in the State of Washington), B. M. Clen Dening, Prof. S. Wilkin, Prof. J. W. Pogue, R. E. Offenhauer and B. F. Klinger, all of whom have been or are at present teachers of the county. The State school commissioners who have attended the Mercer County Teachers' Institute have been the following: A. J. Rickoff, Thomas W. Harvey, C. C. Smart, Ansell Smyth, W. W. White, J. J. Burns, L. D. Bonebrake (present incumbent), T. C. Mendenhall, O. T. Corson, C. C. Miller and others. Thomas J. Godfrey, who died recently, was at the organization of the institute and was present at every meeting. In the early history of the institute nearly all the attorneys of Celina, who at one time were teachers, enrolled themselves as members, being Thomas J. Godfrey, Hiram Murlin, J. G. Loughridge, John W. Loree, Stephen A. Armstrong, Patrick E. Kenney, J. T. Kenney, I. T. Raudabaugh, D. J. Callen and Keepers Alberry. Some of the older lady teachers were: Mary E. Tou Velle, Mary C. Loague, Mattie E. Miller, Lizzie C. Kable, Amelia Kable and Mrs. Adarene Landfair, who served many years as a primary teacher in the public schools of Celina.

MERCER COUNTY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The first meeting of the association for the year 1906-07 was held December 15, 1906, at the Town Hall, Celina. Prof. T. B. Pearson, of Columbus, gave two talks—one on "Some Fundamentals in Teaching," and one on

"Robert Burns and His Poetry." Prof. W. E. Kershner, manager of the State Teachers' Reading Circle, gave talks on "Reading Circle" work and on "Dickens as an Educational Reformer." William A. Bair is president of the association, Eva Winter, secretary, and R. E. Offenhauer, J. H. Koesters and S. Wilkin constitute the executive committee.

COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL EXAMINERS.

This board for the year 1906 is constituted as follows: James Ross, Fort Recovery; Samuel Cotterman, Rockford; and A. C. Eifert, Maria Stein (appointed *vice* C. E. Thomas, resigned). The members of the board in 1904 and 1905 were: Samuel Cotterman, Rockford; C. E. Thomas, Mendon; and Hugo Anthony, St. Henry. The following served on the board prior to 1880: S. F. DeFord, George A. Reinhart, B. F. Suwalde, Hiram Murlin, John W. DeFord, M. C. Culver, James F. Loughridge, Edward Landfair, Fred Lorspetter, Joseph Reichart and John W. Loree. Patrick E. Kenney was appointed a member of the board in 1887; William Mackey and J. T. Kenney, in 1889; R. W. Mitchell, in 1893; Elma Rapp, in 1894; A. G. Clark, in 1895; and C. J. Stein, in 1898. Samuel Cotterman is now serving his third term on the board, having been first appointed in 1899. C. E. Thomas was first appointed in 1901 and was reappointed in 1904, but resigned before the end of his second term, being succeeded by A. C. Eifert. Hugo Anthony was appointed in 1903.

MERCER COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

The first Court House was a frame structure, 20 by 24 feet in dimensions, two stories high, built in 1828-29 by W. McCluney. The price paid, $291.49, included price for lot 57, which was valued by two disinterested men at $40. The furniture was provided by Joshua Warfield at a cost of $57.37½. Previous to the erection of this building, the Court of Common Pleas had held sessions in the tavern of John Pickerell, to whom the commissioners on December 3, 1827, allowed $5 for the use of the same.

On September 12, 1839, the commissioners and auditor met to select 34 lots donated by the proprietors of Celina to aid in the erection of public buildings in the town. On November 5th of that year 20 of these lots were sold for $327.25 and on the 7th eight additional lots were sold for $292.50.

On September 13, 1839, the commissioners put under contract the building of a new Court House at Celina. The contract was let on December 3, 1839, to Samuel Hunter and John McGee for $1,350. The building was completed in June, 1841, but it seems that the Court House as first constructed

was not plastered for on June 7, 1843, Milton M. Miller received the contract for plastering the rooms of the second floor, which were used for court purposes, consisting of a court-room and two jury rooms. At the same time W. Brandt was awarded the contract for plastering the upper story and Franklin Linzee the contract for building a fence around the Court House. In April, 1846, John Carlin and John Bolton were awarded the contract for plastering the rooms in the first or basement story. In April, 1850, William Auguster was given the contract for roofing the Court House with pine shingles and the contract for the finishing of the court-room was given to Stephen McVicker, each contract being for $110. In July of this year the contract for painting the Court House was awarded to Levi Dibble for $165. In April, 1851, Abraham Miller was awarded the contract for the underpinning of the Court House with stone and for walling and digging a well. In September, 1858, the commissioners built an office of brick for the county treasurer, 16 by 24 feet in dimensions, with stone foundation.

On April 13, 1866, the commissioners resolved to erect a Court House 58 by 70 feet in ground dimensions, three stories high, including a stone basement. At a subsequent meeting held the same month, the dimensions were changed to 60 by 97 feet. The first bids, which were opened on May 18, 1866, not proving satisfactory, no contract was awarded. On March 13, 1867, Mr. Rumbaugh, an architect of Lima, Ohio, submitted plans for a Court House which were adopted. The plans provided for a building 56 feet 6 inches by 81 feet 4 inches, two stories high—with main tower 16 feet square, four stories high and a smaller tower 14 feet square, three stories high—to be of brick work, cut stone, plastering, stucco work, roof slating, court-room, painting, clock, etc. The building was to be finished by September 15, 1868. Ten bids, ranging from $39,000 to $44,850, were considered, the contract finally being awarded to R. G. Blake and F. C. LeBlond. By consent of the commissioners this contract was transferred by Messrs. Blake and LeBlond to M. P. Guffey, on the same conditions. On June 22, 1869, the commissioners sold the old Court House lot (No. 276) to D. McMurray for $630 and the north part of the lot with the brick building used as treasurer's office for $500. On April 17, 1869, the Court House having been completed, the cost was reported to be $43,773.41.

MERCER COUNTY JAIL.

On December 29, 1825, the County Commissioners awarded the contract for the building of Mercer County's first jail to Asa Hinkle, for which he received lots 31, 34, 37, 42 and 50 and $150 in cash, settlement taking place June 6, 1830. In 1833 it was repaired by covering the inside of the door

with sheet iron, using wrought iron nails with large heads set four inches apart.

On July 1, 1842, the contract for building a new county jail was awarded to Gustavus Darnold which was to be finished on September 28, 1842, the price of the same—$397—to be paid in part in town lots. On March 4, 1849, the commissioners ordered an addition to the jail and debtor's room (which was a frame building) and awarded the contract to H. L. Johnson for $630, at the same time giving the contract for plastering to Levi Lipps and that for iron work to Hezekiah Trenary.

On January 11, 1860, the contract for erecting a sheriff's residence on the northeast corner of the Public Square was awarded to Valeau & Jacobs, of Cincinnati, Ohio, for the sum of $5,000. The plans for the building provided for a structure 38 feet 6 inches by 29 feet, with an elevation of 22 feet 8½ inches to the top of the cornice, to be built of brick with stone foundation and covered with sheet iron.

In the spring of 1875 the contract for a new county jail and sheriff's residence was awarded to E. W. Wilson, of Van Wert, Ohio, for $25,500, according to plans and specifications which were prepared by T. J. Toland & Son, of Delphos, Ohio. On March 8, 1876, the jail was ordered to be heated with steam and the contract was awarded to C. Buehler & Company, of St. Marys, Ohio, for $935.

MERCER COUNTY INFIRMARY.

This institution dates from July 19, 1863, when County Commissioners George Speaker, Christopher Schunck and Adam Baker purchased of William Hale and Elizabeth, his wife, for $3,500 the following described premises, for the purpose of establishing the County Infirmary: Northeast fractional quarter of section 3, township 6 south, range 2 east, containing 165.13 acres, less one-half acre of the northeast corner for school purposes. On October 24, 1877, the farm was increased in size by the purchase of a 160-acre tract, adjoining the first mentioned tract on the south, being described as follows: East half of the southeast quarter, the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter and the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 3, township 6 south, range 2 east. The property was bought of David E. Gray for $1,000. The Infirmary farm is located about two miles west of Celina, in Jefferson township. The buildings and grounds are well cared for and present a very pleasing appearance. The farm is almost entirely self-supporting, the only support derived from the county being through the liquor tax. The institution has about 50 inmates yearly. The present superintend-

ent, Sylvester H. Weaver, succeeded Michael Reusch in 1903; the latter was in charge for 15 years, succeeding Alexander Partner.

On September 11, 1863, B. F. Suwalde, George W. Mosier and Thomas Upton were appointed directors of the County Infirmary to take charge of the property until their successors were duly elected. The original house on the Hale property was used until 1868, when an additional house was built at a cost of $1,550, the work being finished by Fred. Beckman. The building was a frame structure, 32 by 42 feet in dimensions, attached to the main building with a hall through the center 12 feet wide and with four sleeping rooms. On July 22, 1871, a brick building was contracted for to cost $8,278, which was completed in 1873. In the latter year a barn, 46 by 72 feet in dimensions, was erected by William Long at a cost of $1,000. The wants and comforts of the inmates requiring new and more convenient rooms, the contract for another building was awarded on March 30, 1876, to J. S. Smith, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, for $7,270, which was finished and completed to the satisfaction of the directors October 13, 1876. Another brick building, erected especially for the male inmates, was added in 1893. These buildings contain all the modern improvements and are heated with gas. Plans are now being prepared for a hospital building at the County Infirmary, which, it is thought, will be erected in the near future.

ROSTER OF COUNTY OFFICIALS.*

Auditors.—William B. Hedges, 1824; David Armstrong, 1825; Justin Hamilton, 1827; William Armstrong, 1827; Franklin Linzee, 1836; L. D. McMahon, 1839; B. F. Schroeder, 1841; M. W. Smith, 1844; H. F. Juneman, 1848; Elisha Phelps, 1852; G. W. Raudabaugh, 1855; R. G. Blake, 1859; S. S. Snyder, 1863; T. G. Tou Velle, 1867; S. S. Snyder, 1871; J. V. Sidenbender, 1878; T. G. Tou Velle, 1885; S. S. Snyder, 1886; Charles A. Kloeb, 1890; and T. A. Weis, 1900—.

Clerks of Courts.—James Watson Riley, 1824; Franklin Linzee, 1841; James Watson Riley, 1848; H. F. Juneman, 1851; Hiram Murlin, 1860; John W. De Ford, 1866; T. G. Tou Velle, 1872; Edward Landfair, 1882; Henry Lennartz, 1888; J. F. Dysert, 1894; Samuel J. Vining, 1897; L. N. Johnson, 1903 (died January 18, 1905); and John L. Wyckoff, the present incumbent (appointed January, 1905, to serve unexpired term of Johnson; elected in 1905 and began his term of three years August 6, 1906).

Prosecuting Attorneys.—W. I. Thomas, 1824; George B. Holt, 1841; O. C. Rood, 1842; N. H. Starbrand, 1844; S. R. Mott, 1847; F. C. Le

*The names of common pleas judges will be found in the chapter on the Bench and Bar.

Blond, 1849; James Watson Riley, 1853; F. C. Le Blond, 1855; N. L. Hibbard, 1858; F. C. Le Blond, 1859; W. Baker, 1861; Thomas J. Godfrey, 1863; N. L. Hibbard, 1866; Keepers Alberry, 1867; W. F. Miller, 1871; Stephen A. Armstrong, 1875; C. G. O. Miller, 1879; B. M. Clen Dening, 1885; H. A. Miller, 1891; P. E. Kenney, 1897; and Clarence E. Marsh, 1903—.

Treasurers.—J. P. Hedges, 1824; John Manning, 1825; Robert Bigger, 1826; John Pickerell, 1832; Ed. M. Phelps, 1837; Robert B. Gordon, 1844; Benjamin Linzee, 1848; William Hunter, 1852; Benjamin Linzee, 1855; G. W. Raudabaugh, 1860; Christopher Schunck, 1863; S. M. Loree, 1868; G. W. Raudabaugh, 1870; John W. Crockett, 1872; H. H. Pulskamp, 1876; Six Staeger, 1880 (died in office), Jacob Kreusch, 1881; S. A. Nickerson, 1884; H. J. McKirnan, 1888; F. L. Tou Velle, 1892; C. H. Howick, 1896; W. H. Maehlman, 1900; and James M. Howick, 1904—.

Sheriffs.—H. W. Hinkle, 1825; John Murdock, 1827; Isaac Applegate, 1829; Joshua Warfield, 1833; James Brown, 1835; John Elliott, 1836; Sabirt Scott, 1839; A. T. Stedman, 1841; Joseph Carlin, 1843; G. W. Timmonds, 1846; S. E. Snider, 1851; C. H. Hight, 1856; Robert Wiley, 1860; G. W. Timmonds, 1862; Henry L. Johnson, 1866; Thornton Spriggs, 1870; Henry J. McKirnan, 1874; John G. Blake, 1878; James F. Timmonds, 1884; George H. Houser, 1888; George H. Heffner, 1892; Lorenz Schunk, 1896; Joseph Hinders, 1900; and A. B. Grothjan, 1906—.

Recorders.— James Watson Riley, 1825; E. A. McMahon, 1841; L. D. McMahon, 1843; William Hunter, 1848; Jeremiah Sunday, 1851; B. B. Allen, 1855; J. W. Johnston, 1858; T. G. Tou Velle, 1861; J. B. Perwessel, 1867; Edward Landfair, 1873; S. S. Scranton, 1880; William Snyder, 1886; John E. Hamburger, 1892; Charles Fox, 1898; and Joseph F. Tebben, 1904—.

Surveyors.—Justin Hamilton, 1827; Robert Grant, 1833; Justin Hamilton, 1835; Robert Young, 1836; Justin Hamilton, 1837; J. S. Huston, 1839; Odell Thomas, 1843; Cyrenus Elliott, 1845; Samuel Thompson, 1849; J. Crow, 1850; Smith H. Clark, 1852; A. J. Linzee, 1854; Marcus Schuyler, 1858; I. F. Raudabaugh, 1873; Marcus Schuyler, 1876; Jesse De Ford, 1881; Clyde Smith, 1887; Anthony Fishbaugh, 1890; Martin Lutz, 1896; and Loree Marsh, 1906—.

Coroners.—L. D. McMahon, 1837; A. F. Stedman, 1840; George Allen, 1841; Thomas Brown, 1848; Jacob Broadwell, 1850; John S. Brown, 1851; Gustavus Darnold, 1852; G. W. Timmonds, 1857; Adam Baker, 1860; John W. Crockett, 1862; Jacob Hight, 1866; A. J. Murphy, 1870; S. R. Wilson, 1874; F. C. Le Blond, Jr., 1878; J. N. Hetzler, 1880; J. A. Denney, 1884 to June 7, 1886; Dr. D. H. Richardson (*vice* Denney) by appointment

from June 7, 1886 to election 1886; T. G. McDonald, 1886; J. M. Lisle, 1888; Dr. D. H. Richardson (*vice* Lisle, resigned)—by appointment from December 9, 1891, to election 1892, when he was elected to succeed himself (reelected in 1894); Dr. L. P. Lisle, 1896; Dr. Ayers, elected in 1900, who failed to qualify; Dr. G. J. C. Wintermute, the present incumbent, who was appointed in 1900 to fill the vacancy until the next election when he was elected to the unexpired term (reelected in 1902, 1904 and 1906).

Probate Judges.—Under the first State constitution, the associate judges of the Court of Common Pleas in each county had jurisdiction in matters probate. A Probate Court was established in each county by the Constitution of 1851. The following have filled the office of probate judge: W. L. Blocher, 1852; Jacob Broadwell, 1860; R. G. Blake, 1866; William Clay, 1872; D. J. Roop, 1876; H. H. Pulskamp, 1881; S. S. Scranton, 1888; F. S. Collins, 1894; John G. Beckman, 1897; Robert L. Mattingly, 1897 (appointed *vice* Beekman); C. G. O. Miller, 1898; P. F. Dugan, 1901; and Charles S. Younger, 1905—.

Board of County Commissioners.—David Hays, Solomon Carr, Thomas Scott, James Vanausdale and Ansel Blossom, 1824; Israel Dungan, Solomon Carr and Thomas McCumsey, 1825; Joel Wood, 1826; Picket Doute, 1828; Christopher Wood, 1830; Isaac Nichols, 1831; Samuel Ruckman, 1832; William B. Hedges, 1833; Samuel McKee, 1834; Alexander Grant, 1835; Samuel Ruckman and Picket Doute, 1836; John Wright, 1838; Picket Doute, 1839; Elisha Noble, 1840; David Anderson, 1841; Charles Boesel, 1842; Elisha Noble, 1843; John Betz, 1844; Charles Boesel, 1845; Elisha Noble, 1846; John S. McDowell, 1847; Samuel Ruckman, G. J. Sheldon and David Hays, 1848; Frederick Elking, 1849; Thomas Roop, 1850; Nathan Vantilburg, 1851; Mathias Gast, 1852; Robert H. Dunathan, 1853; Nathan Vantilburg, 1854; Mathias Gast, 1855; John McDonald, 1856; George Speaker, 1857; Christopher Schunck, 1858; John McDonald, 1859; George Speaker, 1860; Christopher Schunck, 1861; Adam Baker, 1862; Joseph May, 1863; George Meyers, 1864; Adam Baker, 1865; William Clay, 1866; George Meyers, 1867; Jacob Gerlach, 1868; William Clay, 1869; John Betz, 1870; Jacob Gerlach, 1871; Pat Harman, 1872; John Betz, 1873; Thomas Snyder, 1874; Pat Harman, 1875; J. F. Roemer, 1876; John Frahm, 1877; James B. Snyder, 1878; J. F. Roemer, 1879; John Frahm, 1880; James B. Snyder, 1881; William Lacy, 1882; John H. Siebert, 1883; Peter Haubert, 1884; Christian Fanger, 1885; John H. Siebert, 1886; Peter Haubert, 1887; Christian Fanger, 1888; T. B. Behymer, 1889; Abraham Mott, 1890; Harman H. Schwietermann, 1891; T. B. Behymer, 1892; William H. Lowry, 1893; Harman H. Schwietermann, 1894; Charles Bollenbacher, 1895; George W. Frysinger, 1896; John W. Karch, 1897; Charles

TOWN HALL, CELINA

MERCER COUNTY COURT HOUSE AND JAIL, CELINA

TOWN HALL, COLDWATER

TOWN HALL, MENDON

Bollenbacher, 1898; George W. Frysinger, 1899; John W. Karch, 1900; Daniel Meyers, 1901; Peter Linn, 1902; Isaac Brandon, 1903; Daniel Meyers, 1904; Peter Linn, 1905; Isaac Brandon, 1906. The last three named constitute the present board, and all will hold office until 1909, on account of a recent change in the law. For little over 10 years, the terms of new commissioners have commenced on the third Monday in September instead of January 1st. Isaac Brandon, who was elected in the fall of 1906 to succeed himself, will begin his new term in September, 1907, which term, because of the change referred to above, will be one year short.

Board of Infirmary Directors.—Thomas Upton, G. W. Mosier and B. F. Suwalde, 1863; Thomas Upton, 1864; G. W. Mosier, 1865; B. F. Suwalde, 1866; Bernard Wehrkamp, 1867; Abner Davis, 1868; Bernard Wehrkamp and George Petrie, 1869; Joseph Anderson, 1870; Abner Davis, 1871 (resigned); Philo Le Blond, 1871 (appointed *vice* Davis); George Petrie, 1872 (resigned); Abner Davis, 1872 (appointed *vice* Petrie); Joseph Anderson, 1873; George Petrie, 1874; Bernard Wehrkamp, 1875; Alexander Partner, 1876; Jacob Dumbauld, 1877; Bernard Wehrkamp, 1878; Alexander Partner, 1879; Jacob Dumbauld, 1880; F. B. Trenary, 1881; H. B. Bennett, 1882; C. F. Lutz, 1883; F. B. Trenary, 1884; H. B. Bennett, 1885; C. F. Lutz, 1886; F. B. Trenary, 1887; Philip Heiby, 1888; David Overly, 1889; Isaac N. Kiser, 1890; Philip Heiby, 1891; David Overly, 1892; Isaac N. Kiser, 1893; George Green, 1894; James F. Timmonds, 1895; Edward A. Dibble, 1896; George Green, 1897; James F. Timmonds, 1898; Edward A. Dibble, 1899; Frank P. Hinton, 1900; Bernard Borger, 1901; Herman Kohnen, 1902; Frank P. Hinton, 1903; Bernard Borger, 1904; John Schindler, 1905; and Clement V. May, 1906. The last three named constitute the present board; Clement V. May, elected in the fall of 1906, became a member of the board on the first Monday in January, 1907, F. P. Hinton retiring.

PRESENT COUNTY OFFICIALS.

Auditor—T. A. Weis.
Clerk of Courts—John L. Wyckoff.
Prosecuting Attorney—Clarence E. Marsh.
Treasurer—James M. Howick.
Sheriff—A. B. Grothjan.
Recorder—Joseph F. Tebben.
Surveyor—Loree Marsh.
Coroner—Dr. G. J. C. Wintermute.
Probate Judge—Charles S. Younger.

Board of County Commissioners—Isaac Brandon, Peter Linn and Daniel Meyers.

Board of Infirmary Directors—Clement V. May, John Schindler and Bernard Borger.

Board of County Visitors—T. J. Godfrey, president (deceased November 30, 1906); Mrs. Elizabeth S. McKim, secretary; Mrs. Mary L. Tou Velle, Mrs. Ada Riley, David H. Robinson and Dr. John E. Hattery.

Philip Linn, who has been janitor of the Court House for the past 10 years, is the most faithful guardian of the county's property that the County Commissioners have ever had in their employ. He is ever present on all occasions and zealously guards the county's interests. Mr. Linn is a native of Germany.

MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Senators.—The 32nd Senatorial District of Ohio, of which Mercer County is a part, has for over 50 years also included the counties of Auglaize, Allen, Van Wert, Paulding, Defiance and Williams. For the first quarter of a century of its life, Mercer County was variously combined with other counties in Northwestern Ohio. Herewith are given the names of the State Senators that have represented the districts that have included Mercer County, from 1821 (20th General Assembly) to the present time: John Alexander, David F. Heaton, John G. Jameson, David F. Heaton, John M. U. McNutt, James Johnson, John E. Hunt, William J. Thomas, Joseph S. Updegraff, John O'Ferral, William M. Wilson, Sabirt Scott (Mercer County), John Taylor, Ed. M. Phelps (Auglaize County), Edward Foster, Charles C. Marshall (Allen County), Meredith R. Willett (Williams County), Thomas J. Godfrey (Mercer County) and W. Carter (Defiance County), Charles Hoesel (Auglaize County), Charles Boesel (Auglaize County) and P. W. Hardesty (Williams County), William Sheridan, Jr. (Williams County) and G. W. Andrews (Auglaize County), G. M. Saltzgaber (Van Wert County), Thomas J. Godfrey (Mercer County) and Elmer J. White (Defiance County), Robert Mehaffey (Allen County) and J. P. Schmeider (Auglaize County, Robert Mehaffey (Allen County), Melville D. Shaw (Auglaize County), Melville D. Shaw (Auglaize County) and John L. Geyer (Paulding County), Henry J. Lawlor (Allen County) and James D. Johnson (Mercer County), James D. Johnson (Mercer County and William F. Conley (Mercer County), William G. Brorein (Auglaize County) and William E. Decker (Paulding County), William G. Brorein (Auglaize County), Stephen D. Crites (Allen County) and Thomas M. Berry (Van Wert Coun-

MAIN STREET, ROCKFORD

WAYNE STREET, FORT RECOVERY

MERCER COUNTY INFIRMARY, JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

MAIN STREET, CELINA

ty), and Thomas M. Berry (Van Wert County) and W. M. Denman (Williams County), the present incumbents.

Representatives.—The following is a list of the members of the House of Representatives from Mercer County and the districts to which it has belonged from its organization to date: Justin Hamilton, Patrick G. Goode, Stacy Taylor, Hiram Bell, Justin Hamilton, Thomas Shideler, Justin Hamilton, Jacob Counts and John McClure, James Watson Riley and Daniel Alexander and James Bryson, Isaac Spear and Isaac Hostetter, Michael Leatherman and Ezekiel Thomas, John S. Purviance and Dr. Philip J. Hines, Cyrenus Elliott, Samuel R. Mott, Henry Lipps, William Blackburn, F. C. Le Blond, John Shaw, Charles F. Edson, A. P. J. Snyder, John A. Estell, Daniel J. Callen (the first Representatives from Mercer County alone), Hiram Murlin, George W. Raudabaugh, Archelaus D. Marsh, William F. Miller, Archelaus D. Marsh (elected Speaker of the House), C. M. Le Blond, L. N. Wagner, B. M. Clen Dening, J. T. Kenney, Samuel V. Brown and J. J. McLaughlin, the present incumbent.

OTHER OFFICIALS FROM MERCER COUNTY.

Mercer County at the present time is in the Fifth Congressional District, which is represented by one of the county's citizens, W. E. Tou Velle, elected in the fall of 1906. Only one other Mercer County man has served in Congress—Francis C. Le Blond—his term covering four years, 1863-67.

Mercer County was represented in the Constitutional Convention of 1871 by Thomas J. Godfrey.

The following have served as members of the State Board of Equalization from the 32nd Senatorial District: Miller Arrowsmith, 1846; John W. Waters, 1853; Hugh T. Rinehart, 1860-61; Francis J. Lye (Allen County), 1870-71; V. V. Pursell (Paulding County), 1880-81; Frank Westgerdes (Mercer County), 1900-01. A new board is formed every 10 years.

POPULATION STATISTICS.

The first census of the county was taken in 1830 and showed a total population of 1,116. This was increased to 8,277 in 1840, but the census of 1850 showed a decrease, there being but 7,712 residents of the county in that year. This decrease arose from the fact that a portion of the territory of the county was set off to Auglaize County by the Legislature of 1849. Since 1850 each census has shown an increased population, that of 1860 being 14,104; 1870, 17,254; 1880, 21,808; 1890, 27,220; and 1900, 28,021.

The growth and relative size of the townships are shown by the figures

given below, representing the population for each decennial period since the county attained its present area:

Townships	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900
Black Creek	490	913	1,087	1,441	1,557	1,438
Butler	220	1,042	1,301	1,595	1,930	1,995
Center	491	1,153	1,255	1,456	1,539	1,493
Dublin	914	1,352	1,599	2,027	2,625	2,751
Franklin	357	654	831	1,015	1,240	1,320
Gibson	485	956	1,100	1,462	1,658	1,568
Granville	564	1,035	1,234	1,616	2,013	2,329
Hopewell	290	638	894	1,185	1,414	1,313
Jefferson	493	1,003	1,557	2,406	3,962	4,282
Liberty	182	508	779	1,196	1,652	1,733
Marion	1,428	1,848	1,876	1,933	2,525	2,678
Recovery	596	826	1,118	1,272	1,487	1,396
Union	746	1,228	1,475	1,820	2,001	2,238
Washington	456	958	1,148	1,384	1,617	1,487

The population of the county's villages is shown by the following table:

	1880	1890	1900
Celina	1,346	2,702	2,815
Rockford	404	993	1,207
Fort Recovery	802	1,186	1,097
St. Henry*	200	682	650
Coldwater	237	490	627
Mendon	242	400	599
Montezuma	...	210	317
Chickasaw	59	476	310
Burkettsville*	...	...	300

*Taken from other sources than U. S. Census. Census figures not obtainable.

Of the unincorporated towns, Maria Stein is the largest, having a population of about 250. Cassella and Neptune come next, with 177 and 160, respectively, according to 1900 figures.

MERCER COUNTY—A RETROSPECT.

The history of Mercer County is nearly as old as that of the State of Ohio. Only about 18 years after Ohio was admitted into the Union as a State, Mercer County was erected by an act of the Legislature, dated February 12, 1820. While this section of Ohio was as yet an unbroken wilderness—where only a few years before the Indian had held full sway—there were a few hardy pioneers who had come from the older parts of the coun-

try, and settled in the boundaries of what is now Mercer County. Long before the county was established, the white man and his family lived at Fort Recovery on the extreme southern boundary, on the Wabash River; while in the northern part of the county, on the St. Mary's River at Shane's Crossing (Rockford), there was quite a trading post, which would seem quite natural, as the St. Mary's River afforded the means for the transportation of goods and merchandise from the settlements in the older sections of the country.

Thus the county began to grow, slow at first, but after years of hard and laborious toil the old log cabins with their stick chimneys have given way to good, modern frame and brick buildings, with all the modern improvements of machinery for tilling the soil. The wilderness of long ago has become the paradise of modern civilization, and to-day we can boast of the finest farms, the most modern schoolhouses and the best edifices for the worship of the Creator in all the State of Ohio. There is no neighborhood within the borders of Mercer County that is without a good school and church or not in easy access to good markets for all that can be produced. Time, patience and perseverance, joined with indomitable pluck and industry, have wrought wonders.

In the history of Mercer County, even in the last 25 years, three steam railroads have been built through the county—the Lake Erie & Western, passing through the county in a direction from northeast to southwest; the Cincinnati Northern and a branch of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton passing through north and south, connecting the county seat with all the important towns in the county, as well as giving direct communication with the outside world.

The securing of good drainage for their farms has been one matter that the citizens of Mercer County have wisely looked after. By reason of the surface of the county being nearly level, only slightly undulating, many sections did not have the proper drainage and the swamps and marshes which existed on account of these conditions decreased the amount of land that could be profitably cultivated. The necessity of providing good drainage for their fields was seen by the intelligent and enterprising agriculturists of the county, who set about the accomplishment of the task. First the County Commissioners made the main ditches in nearly every township; then the farmers began systems of drainage for their cultivated fields and even for their wood lots and pastures, and were well repaid for all money thus expended by the increase in the productiveness of their farms. Not only did the crops prove more abundant, but there was also a decided improvement in the health of the people.

Not until about 1880 were there any improved public roads in Mercer

County. About this time a petition for a gravel road was presented to the County Commissioners, which met with strong opposition; but the petition prevailed and the pike was built. Since that time, from year to year, there have been a number of pikes built, so that to-day there is not a road leading out of the county seat to any part of the county but is graveled and otherwise improved.

Two years ago the Western Ohio Traction Company built the first electric railroad in the county, which gives the people another means of transportation to all parts of the country and adds greatly to their comfort and convenience, as well as helping to pay the county taxes.

The county is not traversed by any great streams of water except the Wabash River which flows through five townships in the southwestern part, and in an early day furnished the power for sawmills and grist-mills. Steam and electricity have now supplanted the water power.

In this connection it may well be said that many of the towns are now lighted by electricity and that telephone systems bring all sections of the county, rural districts as well as urban communities, into close relations. All the telephones in use are those of independent companies, which are owned and controlled by home people.

The growth and wealth of the people of Mercer County in the past 20 years is in many respects remarkable. There was a time when foreign capital found a home in Mercer County, because the farmers needed the money to pay for their farms and to improve them, but that time has gone; the borrower has now become the leader. The farmers of to-day are adding more acres to their farms, building more brick buildings and buying more improved machinery.

CHAPTER III

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP AND CELINA

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP.

In which the county seat of Mercer County, Celina, is located, is 12 miles long from east to west; the east half of the township has an average width from north to south of one and a half miles, while the west half of the township has an average width from north to south of three miles. It is bounded on the south by the Grand Reservoir and Butler township, on the east by Auglaize County, on the north by Hopewell and Center townships and on the west by Washington and Liberty townships.

The proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners of Mercer County, of March 5, 1839, would indicate that Jefferson township was organized at this time. The first election was held in the spring of 1840.

The first settlement of the township was on farms both east and west of the county seat. Of the early settlers of the county and of Jefferson township, we find that Robert Linzee moved from Athens County, Ohio, in the fall of 1832 and located on a farm east of Celina on the north bank of the Grand Reservoir, although at that time the reservoir was not built and nothing in the shape of a road existed save the trails made by the Indians. Mr. Linzee located his son Franklin on a farm now known as the Huston farm, and on what is now known as the Stearns farm he located his nephew, Robert Linzee, Jr. In 1834 Mr. Linzee moved on to the farm, where he spent the remainder of his life. In his lifetime he gave the school district land, the deed for which is in his own handwriting, specifying the fact that it was to be used for that purpose "as long as water runs and wood grows." Among the many early pioneers of Jefferson township was the Riley family, whose members came in at an early day and took a prominent part in the development of the county. We must not forget to mention one member of the Linzee family, who grew to manhood in this county and who is yet living at

Wapakoneta, Ohio—Benjamin Linzee, who was treasurer of Mercer County and held other offices of trust; upon moving to Auglaize County, he was elected and served six years as probate judge of that county. At the time Robert Linzee settled on his farm, the nearest person to it on the east lived at St. Marys, and on the west at Bluffton, Indiana, 40 miles distant. Soon after, half a dozen of his friends settled near, and within four years a schoolhouse was erected, at which the attendance was from 18 to 24 scholars. A young man by the name of Wesley Herbert was the first teacher employed in the first log schoolhouse built in Jefferson township, and Andrew Jackson Linzee recited the first lesson in the said schoolhouse, in the afternoon of the day when it was finished.

Jefferson township contains 16,526 acres of land. The present selling value of the lands and buildings of the township, outside Celina corporation, is $1,239,450. Twenty-five years ago this same land with buildings was valued at $309,540. The farm buildings of to-day are of substantial make, brick and frame, constructed on modern and up-to-date plans. The farm land is well tilled and well fenced with good wire fencing. The schoolhouses of the township are modern brick buildings, with all the necessary equipments as to health, comfort and efficiency. The soil is well adapted to the raising of cereals. Of late years the farmers have had their attention directed to the raising of peas and tomatoes, the latter of which has proved a valuable crop, on which the farmers can realize from $80 to $100 per acre. Corn is the staple agricultural product of this locality; with improved machinery to plant and harvest a corn crop, the claim is made that 100 bushels can be raised on an acre of land. In fact, all crops can be raised—corn, wheat, oats, rye, barley, hay and all vegetables in abundance.

It is but proper to mention the names of citizens who have contributed to the wealth and growth of the township in the past 30 or more years. While they are not pioneers, in the usually accepted meaning of the term, they are the men who have built up the community with their indomitable energy and pluck; some of them are still here to witness the results of their labors. We refer to such men as the Trenarys, Fangers, Timmondses, Blakes, Tou Velles, DeFords, Craigs, Howicks, Raudabaughs, Crocketts, Feldheisers, Hights, A. P. J. and S. S. Snyder, Christopher and Adam Schunck and their brothers, William Dickman, Six Staeger, Abraham Miller, Adam Baker and John Hole, who were here at an early day. Some of these men lived in Celina and others in the country on their farms. Among the early doctors of the town of Celina was Dr. Milton M. Miller, who came here in 1843, and was one of the first school teachers in the town. At a later date came Dr. Joseph N. Hetzler, who practiced medicine in Celina and the vicinity for a long term of years. The places of these enterprising citizens are now

filled by a younger generation of farmers, merchants and professional men, but the foundation for this great work was laid by the pioneers, who in many instances built for the future greatness and prosperity of this community. If they could but see the town of Celina and Jefferson township of to-day and then compare it with what it was when they first came here, their hearts would be filled with astonishment and admiration. The history of this township is but the history of the entire county—the forests in other parts of the county were being cleared, houses were being built, farms were being drained, and better schools and larger and better schoolhouses and churches were being erected, for wherever good schools and churches are found, there we find a happy and prosperous people.

The present officers of Jefferson township are as follows: Trustees—Christian Fanger, Harry A. Jewett and Joseph A. Kuhn; clerk, J. M. Winter; treasurer, Andrew Schunck; justices of the peace—Frank V. Short and John M. Schlosser.

OLD-TOWN UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH.

This church society was organized in the Old-town schoolhouse March 29, 1857, by Revs. William McKee and C. B. Whitley with 13 members, viz.: Wesley and Mary Copeland, John Emmerson and wife and their two daughters—Mary and Clara, Margaret Kumpf, Caroline Kumpf, Aquilla Allen, Sarah E. Allen, Jane Bushnell, John Taylor and Calvin Simmons. The first officers of the church were Wesley Copeland, leader and John Emmerson, steward.

In 1906 the church received various alterations and improvements at a cost of about $365. It was given a new foundation of cement blocks, a new belfry, a new roof, was painted without and within, the windows were papered to represent stained glass and the floor was carpeted. The church was reopened on Saturday evening, December 8, 1906, when Rev. William McKee, of Dayton, Ohio, who assisted in organizing the church in 1867, related the story of the events that led 13 sturdy pioneers to unite in Christian service. Rev. D. W. Abbott, of Bluffton, Indiana, who followed Mr. McKee 22 years later, spoke of the success that had come to the church and Rev. J. F. Miller, of Hicksville, Ohio, told of his pleasant relations with the church six years ago and the present. On Sunday, December 9th, the Sunday-school, old-people's and young people's meetings brought large audiences. The Sunday-school was opened by the superintendent, Zura Springer; instead of class work Rev. D. W. Abbott gave an inspiring address on the lesson teaching. The old people's meeting was addressed by Rev. William McKee; Wesley and Mary Copeland were the only charter members present. Rev.

J. F. Miller addressed the young people's meeting. The present pastor of the church is Rev. J. P. Hight.

CELINA, THE COUNTY SEAT,

Is situated in Jefferson township on the northwest bank of the Grand Reservoir—or Lake Mercer, as it has come to be called—said to be the largest artificial body of water in the world. The name was given by James Watson Riley, one of the proprietors of the original town, because of the resemblance of its location to that of Salina, New York, a town with which Mr. Riley was acquainted, and which was situated at the head of Onondaga Lake. The orthography of the name was changed to avoid any confusion which might arise by virtue of different towns bearing the same postoffice name.

Celina is blessed with all the trades and business that go to make a good town. All of the three steam railroads, which pass through the county, enter the county seat. An electric interurban line connects Celina and Lima, Ohio, which gives the town an outlet to Toledo on the north and to Cincinnati on the south. There are good prospects for the extension of the line further west in the coming summer, which will place Celina in direct communication by rail with all the principal cities of the State of Indiana and other cities to the west and northwest.

In the past 10 years Celina has made many great and lasting improvements. Large and commodious store-rooms have been built. Streets have been paved and sewers laid, thus securing good surface drainage. The town has also increased in commercial importance and in population. The census of 1900 gave Celina a population of 2,815, but this does not now fairly represent the town, as the past seven years have been most prosperous ones.

THE TOWN LAID OUT.

The original town of Celina was laid out by Rufus Wilson Stearnes, Robert Linzee, 2nd, Peter Aughenbaugh and James Watson Riley, acting in partnership, who entered into the following agreement.

This article of agreement, made and entered into by and between the undersigned as parceners in common, witnesseth: That for the purpose of mutual benefit we have each of us paid in the sum of one hundred dollars to be laid out in the purchase of lands at the centre of Mercer County, for the purpose of laying out a town, to be called by the name of Celina, and for the purpose of convenience in making sales of said town property, making deeds, etc., we hereby empower one of our number, to-wit, Rufus Wilson Stearnes, to make, if possible, the entries of the land in his own name, to make sales, keep the books of the company, make all deeds, etc., etc., during the continuance of this article, and to make all necessary and proper arrangements for furthering the interests of the company

in this matter. It is moreover agreed between the contracting parties that, as such tenants in common, each shall bear an equal proportion in expenses and share equal profit in dividends, and that when so much money shall be made as to pay the expense and purchase, each shall be entitled to take out his purchase money; and all moneys arising afterwards may either be taken out, or laid out in other speculations for the company's benefit, as may to the county seem proper; and that this contract shall be as good in law, and to all intents and purposes as binding and valid, as if these presents had been in more ample and better form.

PETER AUGHENBAUGH. (Seal).
R. W. STEARNES. (Seal).
J. W. RILEY. (Seal).
ROBERT LINZEE, 2d. (Seal).

ST. MARYS, MERCER COUNTY, OHIO, August 25, 1834.

This agreement was acknowledged for record before Hon. Stacey Taylor, one of the associate judges of the county, on the 8th of September, together with a supplemental contract, entered into on August 28th, the whole being entered for record September 8th, and recorded on the same day by James Watson Riley, county recorder.

The supplemental contract, which put on record the lands bought by the members of the company, their cost, etc., reads as follows:

"The lands bought by virtue of the within contract are the S. W. qr. of N. W. qr. and N. W. qr. of S. W. qr. of section 6, Town 6, S. Range 3, E., in the name of J. W. Riley; the E. half of S. E. qr. and S. E. qr. of N. E. qr. of section 1, Town 6 S., Range 2 E., in the name of Robert Linzee, 2d.; the N. W. qr. of N. W. qr. of section 6, Town 6 S., Range 3 E.; the N. E. qr. of the N. E. qr. of section 1, Range 2 E., Town 6 S.; the S. E. qr. of S. E. qr. of section 36, Town 5 S., Range 2 E.; and the S. W. qr. of the S. W. qr. of section 31, Town 5 S., Range 3 E., in the name of Rufus W. Stearnes; and are to be held in common for the benefit of all parties, in the same manner as if entered in each person's name, in equal proportions or in all jointly.

"Extra costs, $69.60, making the whole sum paid $469.16, and each share actually paid in, $117.29."

James Watson Riley, as deputy surveyor, laid out the town for the proprietors upon the west part of section 6, township 6 south, range 3 east, and the east part of section 1, township 6 south, range 2 east, with a variation of four degrees to the west of magnetic north. Main and Logan streets were each made six rods wide and all others four rods wide, except Center, which was three. Each alley was laid out one rod wide. The lots, numbered from 1 to 156, inclusive, were made 10 rods long by five wide. The block called the Public Square, 21 rods long by eight wide, was set apart for public purposes; lots 23 and 119 were donated for the use of schools; and lots 44, 100 and 149 were donated for the use of the Methodist Episcopal, Baptist and Presbyterian churches, respectively, "to be used for no other purposes."

On the 8th of September, 1834, the four proprietors went before Associate Judge Stacey Taylor "and severally acknowledged that they had caused to be laid out within said (Mercer) county a town, which they have given the name of Celina; that the within plat and description are accurate; and that in addition thereto they will give three acres of land near said town for a burial ground, on some eligible situation, free to all denominations." The plat was recorded the same day by James Watson Riley, county recorder.

The out-lots north of Celina, laid out on the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 31, township 5 south, range 3 east, and the southeast quarter of section 36, township 5 south, range 2 east, not having been correctly surveyed, a new plat of the outlots was prepared by John S. Houston, county surveyor, to correct the error in the survey of December 4, 1839, and the same was acknowledged for record on September 5, 1840, by James Watson Riley for himself and as agent for Robert Rogers and Rufus W. Stearnes, entered for record on October 8, 1840, and recorded October 15th, by James Watson Riley, county recorder.

THE TOWN AND ITS FOUNDERS.

(From Manuscript Memoirs of W. Willshire Riley, of Concord, Connecticut.)

The seat of justice of Mercer County, Ohio, was surveyed by James Watson Riley, for himself and on behalf of Aughenbaugh, Stearnes and Linzee, joint proprietors of the land. The name given the town was originated by Mr. Riley while on his way to New York to have the map of the town lithographed. While on this journey he paused at Salina, Onondaga County, New York, and was impressed by the similarity of location to that of the town he had just platted. The surface in each case was level, the one town at the head of a natural lake, the other at the head of an artificial lake. Still, to name his new town Salina might give rise to confusion of postoffices, and Mr. Riley resolved to avoid this, and yet secure the name. Both objects were secured by changing the orthography.

In August, 1840, I went out from New York to visit my brother, who was prostrated by congestive fever. He soon recovered, however, and as the political campaign of "Tippecanoe and Hard Cider" was opened he entered the campaign with great enthusiasm. His home was as yet at St. Marys, although the court officers had already been removed to Celina, and so he rode back and forth between these towns, as he held the offices of clerk and recorder. Being a personal friend of General Harrison, and an ardent Whig, he went to Dayton, I accompanying him, to attend the "great gathering," which assembled to hear the General speak. This was among the largest concourses of that memorable campaign. As glee clubs were singing

patriotic sons, my brother hurriedly composed the following panegyric, dedicated to the "Hero of Tippecanoe," and which was sung to the air of "The Star-Spangled Banner:"

No sound broke the stillness, no breeze stirred the air,
And the moon on our white tents shone wan as in sorrow;
The worn soldier slept, but his chieftain stood there,
And watched by his war steed, and thought of the morrow.

His soul-lighted eye was upraised to the sky;
"In the dread hour of battle, O God, be thou nigh,
And teach us to thee and our flag to be true,—
To conquer, or perish, at Tippecanoe."

But hush, there's a footstep falls faint on the ear!
'Tis the sentinel's tread, for he only is waking.
Hark! another! a shot! Ah, the Indians are here!
Up! up! and to arms, boys; the war-cloud is breaking!

From summit and dell the night-startling yell,
Like the howling of fiends, on the sleepers' ears fell;
Rose the voice of Tecumseh, the Prophet's voice, too,
Their hosts had surrounded brave "Tippecanoe."

Upstarting, they sprang at their leader's commands,
And grasped their tried weapons in true patriot hands;
But the foremost in battle to dare and to do,
The bravest, the noblest, was "Tippecanoe."

Our shot fell like rain; Tecumseh was slain;
The Indians defeated, their dead strewed the plain.
The voice of the patriot will ever revere
The heroes who rescued our Western frontier.

Now freemen are rallying, north, south, east and west;
Have chosen for leader the bravest and best;
Their country they'll save from the Democrat crew,
And elect for our President, "Tippecanoe."

But let us return to Celina. There had been a steam saw-mill erected near the reservoir on out-lot No. 1, for the purpose of sawing lumber for the centre of the embankment which was there constructing, and also for the Court House then building by the town proprietors. This building was already under roof. The clerk's office was in a one-story frame building, about 30 by 25 feet in dimensions, and in the north end of which was a store. It stood on the west side of Main street, just south of the Public Square. The store was owned by Mr. Riley, and was the only one in the town. Mr. Rood was deputy clerk, and lived in a log cabin, built of round timber, on the south side of Fayette, near Ash street. Franklin Linzee kept a hotel on the corner of Main and Warren streets. It was a two-story frame, with an L kitchen. Another hotel was kept by a Mr. Simmons, on the southeast corner of Sugar

and Warren streets. It was a long, hewed-log house of two stories. Benjamin Maurer lived in a log cabin on the southwest corner of Sugar and Logan streets, and Christian Maurer in a small frame house on Market near Mill street. Mr. Smith lived in a two-story frame house on Main street opposite Linzee's. Sheriff Stedman lived in a small log cabin next the clerk's office, and Mr. Magoon in a cabin near Rood's, on Ash street. I think all these men had families. A German doctor lived in a little cabin between the office and Linzee's, and Dr. John W. Fulton moved from St. Marys and had his office in a two-story log house on the northwest corner of Fayette and Ash. There was a cabin on the southeast corner of Logan and Sugar, but it was vacant, as were several others built by Giddings & Bickell, contractors, on the reservoir embankment. Esquire Trenary lived on a farm adjoining the town. He was a blacksmith by trade, and had a family. There were several men boarding at the hotels who were engaged on the Court House. Among them were Henry L. Johnson and his brother, who were carpenters, and a Mr. Jacobs, who was a brick-mason and plasterer. The latter were employed by my brother to build a brick hotel on lots 259 and 260, being the northeast corner of Market and Main streets. An amusing incident is here inserted as illustrative of the prejudice against the negroes then recently located at Montezuma, this county, by the executor of the will of the Hon. John Randolph, of Virginia. My brother had tried for some time without success to get some person to take a contract for making brick. This contract was finally given some negroes, and they at once set about preparing the ground and moulding brick. At this juncture the very white men who had refused to do the work, either for cash or in payment of debts, made pretense of being anxious to work, and then determined to drive the negroes off by warning them out of town as paupers. I had bought the cabins already alluded to as vacant and rented them to the negroes, so that when the malcontents came to warn them out of town they were found to be householders, carrying out a valuable contract to the satisfaction of my brother. The charge of pauperism miscarried, and the negroes completed their work, unmolested. The house was completed by fall, and my brother and family then occupied it.

The trees yet stood in native grandeur, and consisted chiefly of stately white ash, walnut, hickory, sugar and elm, the latter in the depression along the line of Walnut street. The mud was tramped knee deep by the teams engaged upon the embankment, the only walk being a slab one extending between the office, the taverns, and Simmons'. I assisted my brother every way I could, attending to his store, recording deeds and selling lots and lands. Sometimes riding through the woods to show land to purchasers—I had even to go with some to find the land they had already purchased. My father and brother having surveyed the lands, they were constantly sought for informa-

JAMES WATSON RILEY

tion, and when I could assist the inquirer I did so. Having so recently left the paved streets of New York city, the mud and water did not agree with my patent leather boots, but the mud could not be avoided and the water was everywhere.

After the election, which had occupied so much of our thought and time, I proposed to my brother to have a chopping frolic or "bee," and just cut down the timber promiscuously and give the sun an opportunity to dry up the mud for once. I further suggested that the lumber be given to anyone who would remove it, or else have it sawed into rail timber or firewood suitable for the mill. It was then intended to sow the whole plat in grass and so get rid of the mud. My brother was pleased with the idea, but was too busily engaged on the St. Marys locks to give the matter his attention, but told me that if I would take the whole matter in my hands he would pay all the bills. I accordingly fixed a day in November and issued nearly 100 invitations to a chopping "bee." Those at a great distance came on the day preceding the "bee," and were provided for as well as our accommodations would warrant. On the day of the "bee" all were to be provided with refreshments, consisting of eggnog, sandwiches and doughnuts, and a grand supper in the new brick building, then floored and roofed, but yet unfinished. After supper a dance was to be given. As part of the preparations I sent to Fort Recovery for musicians, and to Piqua for two barrels of whiskey, six dozen tin cups, and the same number of plates, knives and forks, spoons and tin pails. Venison, turkeys, pigs and chickens were procured, and all the ladies engaged to do the cooking. Arrangements were made at the hotels for those who came the day before. The day arrived—a beautiful Indian summer day—and with it came about 70 experienced choppers to Celina, with axes sharp and glistening, reminding one of the descriptions of the axes of the ancient headsmen. These modern axes, however, were for better, holier use; they meant the welfare, not the misery of man, for they produced smiles and not tears. The woodsmen divided into companies of from 15 to 20, under a leader who selected trees in rows, so that by cutting them off and moving in this manner to the east side, the last row was allowed to fall against the others, causing them all to fall with a thunder-crash, at intervals of about an hour. Eggnog was served in tin pails, with all the sandwiches and doughnuts desired. A barrel of whiskey was used, although a few of those present used coffee alone. Isaac Hanley commanded one of the companies; the other leaders were from a distance, and I have forgotten their names. The men commenced on the corner of Buckeye and Market streets, and felled all timber south of Market to the west line of the town plat.

Near the corner of Warren and Sugar streets stood a white-oak giant eight and a half feet in diameter and towering to a lofty height. It was a

grand old "monarch of the forest," and I tried hard to have the woodmen "spare that tree," but they craved the glory of slaying that giant, and I reluctantly yielded assent. It was attacked by eight men, working on four sides, and the whole company assembled near by to witness its fall. It stood in such erect majesty that there was doubt in which direction it would fall, and it was almost cut clear off before it finally yielded to the ruthless axe and came toppling toward the south with a crash which was said to have been heard at St. Marys. It was 60 feet to the first limb, and in order to saw the trunk into timber it was necessary to split it into quarters. But the frolic ended, supper was served and everything cleared away to give place to the dance. This was kept up by many until morning, when all partook of a hearty breakfast and returned to their homes. There was neither accident nor disturbance occurred to mar the pleasure of the occasion, and all departed with pleasant thoughts of the memorable chopping frolic.

The sun looked down approvingly and dried the mud, "a consummation so devoutly to be wished." The timber was first cut and rolled from the road, the brush was piled and burned and fencing and fire timber were procured by all who needed either. Hanley was employed to cut wood for the mill at 31¼ cents per cord, and piled up regularly each day five cords of firewood. By spring a large quantity of the timber had disappeared, and grass came "creeping, creeping everywhere."

During the fall and winter several new settlers arrived. Vincent Beebout, a merchant tailor, came from Fort Recovery. My brother-in-law, John Jay Beach, brought his wife Phebe and their three children here about this time.

Being anxious to complete the Court House, my brother moved here, as already intimated, about the 1st of December. A severe winter ensued, and most of the timber calculated for firewood was used from that already fallen. The Public Square was heavily timbered, and the ground wet. Upon it grew a number of large elm, ash and beach trees. The plat contained five acres, and was yet rather unsightly.

We Whigs concluded to celebrate the inauguration of General Harrison by clearing off these grounds. Accordingly, Messrs. Beach, Beebout, Rood, Christian and Benjamin Maurer, Magoon, Henry L. Johnson and myself, concluded to:—

> Lay the giant forest low, chose the giants in a row;
> Cut them down, nor spared a single tree;
> As they struck the ground below upward our glad shout would go,
> And the sunbeams kissed the square in soft but rapturous glee.

A few days later, without solicitation, my brother received, through the mail, the appointment as register of the United States Land Office at Lima,

Ohio, and to that town he moved in June. I accompanied him as deputy. The canal lands were now offered for sale at $2.50 per acre, and during the summer and winter nearly all the lands were sold. It is a well authenticated fact, that the signature to my brother's commission was the last official act of President Harrison.

When John Tyler succeeded to the presidency, he re-appointed my brother, but when the President joined the Democracy, James resigned the position of register. I removed to Mansfield, and my brother to Celina. This latter had then commenced to improve. Mr. Beach built a two-story brick dwelling on lots 238 and 255, fronting on Ash street and adjoining the alley.

Benjamin Linzee built a two-story brick on the northwest corner of Main and Anthony streets. Several frame buildings were erected that spring (1841). In order to hasten the completion of the Court House, situated on the northeast corner of Main and Livingston streets, I glazed the windows as my contributions to the county. It was finished in time to be occupied at the spring term of the court, at which Judge Holt presided.

My brother was elected to represent the district in the Legislature, and took the same seat in the old State House, which our father filled in 1823-24. He accordingly moved to Columbus in 1843, where he resided about three years, when he returned to Celina, and devoted his energies to the development of the county. Afterwards he was nominated and made a gallant contest for Congress in a district hopelessly Democratic. His opponent was Hon. William Sawyer. James stumped the district, and reduced the Democratic majority from 2,500 to about 1,000.

Not long after, his horse took fright, and he was thrown from his buggy and received spinal injuries from which he never recovered.

* * *

To the foregoing account of the life of Mr. Riley by his brother, we add the following observations:—

Mr. Riley was born at Middletown, Connecticut, February 20, 1804, and died at Celina, January 1, 1870. In September, 1827, at Alexander, New York, he married Susan Ellis and to them were born six children—three sons and three daughters—all of whom survived him. The eldest son, Dr. William Willshire Riley, is located at Judsonia, Arkansas, where he is engaged in the practice of medicine. He has served in the Arkansas State Senate. Calvin Erastus Riley is a well-known resident of Celina, president of the Commercial Bank Company. James Watson Riley, Jr., the youngest son, who is a resident of Celina, distinguished himself in the Civil War. Amelia Ann, the eldest daughter, who is now deceased, was twice married; her first husband, Capt. William McMurray, was starved to death at Andersonville Prison, in the Civil War; she married as her second husband Clark

Williamson. Susan, the second daughter, is the wife of Hon. E. M. Ashley, of Denver, Colorado; she was the first president of the Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs. Mahala, the third daughter, is the wife of Judge A. J. Hodder, a prominent resident of Boston, Massachusetts. Mr. and Mrs. James W. Riley also reared six orphan children. Mrs. James W. Riley survived her husband many years, spending most of the period of her widowhood with her daughter, Mrs. Ashley.

Mr. Riley's life was a long, eventful one and his name will be found identified with the foundation of towns, the survey of lands, public documents, official rosters and legislative and executive duties. He was one of the proprietors of the towns of Van Wert, Paulding and Celina—all now seats of justice—and was also associated with Horatio Curtis, Samuel Rice and W. Willshire Riley, his brother, in founding the towns of Antwerp in Paulding County. Throughout these pages the local matter will exhibit his name, showing his activity and enterprise in multiform directions and capacities. To those records the reader is referred for the public services, as exemplified by the public spirit of this ever active man, for greater justice will be done him to allow his public services to appear in connection with the enterprises and offices with which he was identified than if his life acts were compressed in one page of biography. To him the citizens of Mercer County are deeply and continually indebted, and his name will ever be found among the records of the territory as one of the leading, influential spirits who knew how to enter the wilderness and carve out villages which should serve as *nuclei* for growing, enterprising communities. His remains lie in North Grove Cemetery, at Celina. A monument marks the spot of burial, and bears the following inscription:—

In Heaven Rest.
Sacred to the Memory of our Father,
JAMES WATSON RILEY.
DIED
January 1, 1870,
AGED
65 years, 10 months and 11 days.
There never lived a better husband, a kinder father, a truer friend.

RESIDENTS OF CELINA FOR 50 YEARS OR MORE.

We are indebted to P. A. Ellis, of Celina, for the following list of people who were residents of Celina in June, 1853, and are now (January, 1907) living here: Mrs. F. C. Le Blond, Mrs. Joseph N. Hetzler, Mrs. Ann E. Snyder, Mrs. William Dickman, Sr., Mrs. Henrietta Juneman, Calvin E. Riley, Mr. and Mrs. James W. Riley, Michael Feldheiser, Sarah Hole, Susan Fanger, Sophia Crockett, Judge Stephen A. Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. Martin V. B. Greek, Mrs. Elizabeth Hole, Seymour Craig, Mrs. Christian Fanger, Susan P. Mack, P. A. Ellis, Kate Estry, Mahala Nungester, Mrs. Mary

Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McDonald, Philo Le Blond, Broad Trenary, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Pohlman and Mrs. D. H. Richardson.

David Overly will have been a resident of Celina for 50 years in March, 1907. John W. DeFord came here in 1858 and in another year will have lived here half a century.

INCORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE AND ROSTER OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS.

Celina was incorporated as a village June 2, 1860. The following have served as mayors: Dr. Joseph N. Hetzler, 1861; Noah Bretz, 1862; Alfred LeBlond, 1864; Joseph May, 1866; S. S. Snyder, 1868; Hiram Murlin, 1870; J. M. Davidson, 1872; R. G. Blake, 1874; J. W. Riley, 1876; Joseph May, 1878; S. S. Snyder, 1882; Joseph May, 1883; Charles C. Gable, 1892; Eli Bryson, 1894; Joseph S. Metzner, 1898; Edward Landfair, 1900; Franklin S. Collins, 1903; Edward Landfair, 1904; and C. G. O. Miller, 1905.

T. G. Tou Velle was village clerk in 1863. He was succeeded by Philo Le Blond, 1864; Keepers Alberry, 1867; T. G. Tou Velle, 1868; Jonathan Shepherd, 1872; Charles C. Gable, 1878; A. E. Murlin, 1882, serving to September, 1883; H. F. Juneman, appointed September, 1883; Charles C. Gable, 1884; Charles A. Kloeb, 1886 (resigned February 8, 1887); Charles C. Gable, 1887 (appointed *vice* Kloeb and afterwards elected to succeed himself; Joseph S. Metzner, 1892; August Behringer, 1896; Ralph G. Le Blond, 1900; August Behringer, appointed February 13, 1901, *vice* Le Blond; Charles R. Bohrer, 1901; Frank Kreusch, 1903; and John M. Winter, 1905.

The village treasurers since 1882 have been: Charles Fanger, H. F. Juneman, J. F. Timmonds, A. B. Grothjan, William J. Maehlman and George Kistler, who has been treasurer since 1903.

Since 1872 the following have served as village marshal: George Tou Velle, George H. Houser, John G. Blake, George H. Houser, John Woods, John Younger, Thomas Houser and Jacob Weber, the present incumbent.

Since 1882 the following have been solicitors of the village: Archelaus D. Marsh, H. B. Landfair, Byron M. Clen Dening, John L. Loree, R. L. Mattingly, C. G. O. Miller, Henry A. Miller and James D. Johnson, the present incumbent.

The first Town Council consisted of four members, elected from the village at large, namely: Adam Baker, John Luck, John M. Pohlman and S. S. Snyder. Later it consisted of five members and still later was composed of six members—an arrangement that continued for a long while prior to 1892, when the town was divided into four wards and one councilman from each ward and two at large made up the Council. In June, 1895, an ordinance was passed, changing the representation from each ward from one to

two councilmen. When the new code was adopted in 1902, the Town Council became a legislative body of six members, elected at large. The first Town Council under the new code, elected in 1902 for a term of three years and re-elected in 1905 for another three-years' term, consisted of Henry Lennartz, R. R. Wyckoff, William Cron, Michael Linn, Val. Fortman and Dr. G. J. C. Wintermute. The following have served in the Council from the incorporation of the village: Adam Baker, John Luck, John M. Pohlman, S. S. Snyder, W. E. Baker, Alexander Wyckoff, George W. Raudebaugh, James H. Day, R. W. Small, E. U. Shepherd, Noah Bretz, J. W. Crockett, H. F. Juneman, Jacob Winter, S. F. Deford, Hiram Murlin, A. P. J. Snyder, A. Fanger, Christopher Schunck, R. G. Blake, M. Winter, Gideon Le Blond,

STREET VIEW IN CELINA IN 1890
From Howe's "Historical Collections of Ohio."

David Murray, Peter Schunck, J. K. Brandon, S. B. Shipley, William Dickman, Adam Schunck, L. D. Tou Velle, Henry L. Johnson, Abner Davis, Keepers Alberry, Casper Smith, John Blake, H. H. Klare, Michael Feldheiser, C. H. Hitchens, John Milligan, Conrad Hierholzer, J. Hierholzer, Charles Fanger, L. Jones, H. H. Pulskamp, Fred Stedcke, D. J. Roop, Edward Landfair, J. F. Timmonds, John Hoppel, Jacob Kreusch, William Cron, Fred Stelzer, J. G. Blake, D. Guy, D. Rush, V. N. Estry, P. A. Ellis, A. Purtcher, Val. Fortman, Michael Linn, Byron M. Clen Dening, Fred J. Laudahn, William J. Maehlman, George Winter, H. J. McKirnan, Eli Bryson, A. B. Grothjan, Daniel Pifer, A. Zender, S. P. McGriff, George Ayers, George Eichler, J. M. Winter, Ed. Snyder, W. H. Lemm, John Hein, C. M. Clark, Philip Beiersdorfer, Jacob Gerlach, J. A. Roemer, J. L. Morrow, John Leifeld, Bert. Corwin, A. B. Newcomb, J. A. Hoagland, John J.

Schellic, George H. Houser, Theophilus P. Taylor, Ed. Wuest, Frank V. Short, W. F. McDaniel, M. V. B. Greek, Abraham Burris, J. M. Howick, R. R. Wyckoff, G. J. C. Wintermute and Henry Lennartz.

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY OF CELIA.

Mayor—C. G. O. Miller.

Clerk—John M. Winter; deputy clerk, Nora Bryan.

Treasurer—George Kistler.

Marshal—Jacob Weber.

Solicitor—James D. Johnson.

Council—Dr. G. J. C. Wintermute (president), R. R. Wyckoff, Henry Lennartz, Val. Fortman, William Cron and M. Linn.

Board of Public Affairs—M. J. Hemmert (president), John E. Hamburger (secretary) and James D. Johnson; clerk of the board, George A. Petrie. Jacob Gerlach and S. S. Scranton will take the places of Messrs. Hamburger and Johnson in 1907.

Board of Health—Dr. Joseph Sager (president), Joseph Depweg (secretary), Dr. D. H. Richardson, C. A. Wyckoff and Dr. L. D. Brumm.

Board of Education—Frank V. Short (president), W. W. Shock (secretary), John W. Loree, Samuel J. Vining and William Pumphrey.

Board of Trustees, Free Public Library—Mrs. Elizabeth S. McKim (president), John M. Schlosser (secretary and treasurer), Patrick E. Kenney, W. E. Tou Velle, and Elizabeth Cook; librarian, Myrtle Crockett.

Board of Trustees, Law Library—Thomas J. Godfrey* (president), C. S. Younger (secretary), James H. Day, R. L. Mattingly and W. E. Tou Velle; treasurer, J. M. Schlosser; librarian, Frank V. Short.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Henry Weisman is chief of the Celina Fire Department, at a salary of $50 per month; he was appointed to this position October 15, 1906, and has served in the department since 1904. Val. Freeman is driver of the team and is a paid employee of the department at $45 per month. The equipment consists of a team, wagon, hose and ladders. The department does not have a steam engine as a sufficient pressure is maintained in the water mains.

POSTMASTERS OF CELINA.

The names of those who have served as postmasters of Celina from the time the postoffice was established to the present time are as follows: Samuel

*Deceased.

Ruckman, Levi Dibble, William McMurray, John J. Rickley, James Bell, Thomas Williamson, A. LeBlond, J. Broadwell, A. J. Linzee, William Dickman, Jacob Hight, Charles McKee, P. Guffey, John Dickman, John W. McKee, W. E. Tou Velle, Jacob Kreusch, C. A. Wyckoff and C. A. McKim, the present incumbent.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

Until 1884, when it was destroyed by fire, the Court House that preceded the present one was used as a Town Hall. In 1890 the present handsome Town Hall, or "City Building" as it is usually called, was constructed at a cost of about $20,000, the contractors being Kreusch & Fanger, residents of Celina. The structure is a large, commodious building, constructed of brick with red sandstone trimmings. A considerable portion of the building is given up to the City Opera House, a nicely decorated assembly room with a seating capacity of about 500. A large council chamber, mayor's office, township office, city bastile, water works and electric light plant offices, and quarters for the Celina Fire Department take up the remaining space in the structure. At the time it was erected, Joseph May was mayor; Charles C. Gable, clerk; H. F. Juneman, treasurer; while B. M. Clen Dening, William J. Maehlman, Fred J. W. Laudahn, George W. Winter, D. Pifer and C. Schlosser constituted the Town Council.

* * *

In 1895 the present water-works building in the north end of town was erected and plant installed at a total cost of $50,000, under the supervision of J. P. LeBlond, John Milligan and C. D. Hierholzer, who constituted the first Board of Water Works Trustees elected. The water supply is obtained from drilled wells.

In 1900 in connection with the water-works plant and in the same building an electric light plant was installed at a cost of nearly $50,000. Both the water and electric light plants are owned and operated by the city under the immediate control of the Board of Public Affairs, on which board the following named gentlemen have served: J. P. LeBlond, John Milligan, C. D. Hierholzer, D. Pifer, L. D. Brumm, M. J. Hemmert, Jacob Gerlach, S. S. Scranton, John E. Hamberger and James D. Johnson.

* * *

Celina Free Public Library.*—To the Shakespere Club the credit is given for establishing a library here. One evening in the spring of 1897, the club invited those whom they thought would take kindly to the library move-

*For much of the information respecting the early history of the Celina Free Public Library appearing in this article, we are indebted to the Celina *Daily Standard*.

ment to meet them at the Calvin E. Riley home. There papers were read and a general discussion of the suggested work followed. The same season the club conducted a lecture course, from which the surplus funds were to be expended for books. While the course was a success, the surplus funds were not extensive and so a book "shower" was given at Riley's Hall. The books obtained that night, together with a donation from E. M. Ashley, of Denver, Colorado, formed the nucleus of Celina's first permanent library. Miss Grace Riley, now Mrs. Griffith, Miss Cora Snyder and J. T. Kenney carried the books to the Town Hall and then and there the library assumed shape and form in the township trustees' room. Miss Riley and Miss Snyder had charge the first afternoon it was opened. The library was maintained through the efforts of the Shakespere Club from that time until the new Public Library was opened. Among those who have made important donations of books to the library may be mentioned the following: W. L. Blocher, of Dayton, Ohio, W. F. McDaniel, of Washington, D. C., and W. S. Lipps, former residents of Celina; and Mrs. Olivia Paul, Ford Lewis and Dr. Joseph Sager, of Celina. Aside from these books, the major portion of the volumes that now stand upon the shelves of the new library have been bought by the Shakespere Club.

The History Club of Celina, which had always been in sympathy with a free public library and which had aided in supporting the one started by the Shakespere Club, brought forward the idea that Celina ought to have a library building, so the members of this club started in to secure a building for the stock of books that their younger sisters were gathering together in such goodly numbers. After hard work the sum of $500 was raised by various entertainments given by the club. About this time the Shakespere and History clubs held a joint conference to discuss the subject of a library building, which was caused in a large degree by the report that the village authorities needed the space occupied by the library in the Town Hall. The Shakespere Club reported that they also had a surplus of $500 to be devoted to the project. As the $1,000 of the two clubs was not a large enough amount to buy even a site for a library, it was decided to ask Andrew Carnegie for assistance. He promised to donate a sufficient amount to build and furnish a building, provided a site was assured and a guarantee made that the library would be maintained by the town authorities. There was considerable trouble in securing an eligible site, but finally there came a chance to secure the property on the corner of Main and Fulton streets, where the building now stands, for the sum of $2,200. In order to secure this site meant the raising by the ladies of $1,200 more and they at once started upon their quest for subscriptions. The Altrurian Club entered into the movement at this time and assisted in raising the money. John W. De Ford, S. A. Bowman, W. E. Tou Velle and

other citizens of Celina began to interest themselves in the movement, as the enthusiasm and faith of the members of the clubs rose. The Board of Education, through whom the funds for the maintenance of a public library are obtained under the Harris library law of Ohio, agreed to make the needed levy. At last the site was bought, the levy was assured and the Town Council guaranteed that the library would be maintained.

On January 1, 1904, Andrew Carnegie's secretary, James Bartram, responded to the appeal of Samuel J. Vining, acting as clerk of the Board of Education, for a library donation by writing that the sum of $10,000 had been set aside for the Celina library fund. The work of erecting the building was intrusted to a board of trustees elected by the Board of Education and made up as follows: W. E. Tou Velle, S. A. Bowman, Patrick E. Kenney, J. M. Schlosser, Mrs. Elizabeth S. McKim (president of the History Club), Elizabeth Cook (president of the Shakespere Club) and Mrs. J. F. Dysert, succeeded by Mrs. W. C. Stubbs (president of the Altrurian Club). Andrew DeCurtin designed the building and John Tennent was the contractor. The new building and its furnishings represent a total cost of $12,000, Mr. Carnegie having generously added $2,000 to his original gift of $10,000. It is a model structure with all modern conveniences, built of Bedford stone with tile roof. The annual levy made by the Board of Education maintains the library and the citizens have access to the books without any charge. It was formally opened on Tuesday evening, January 1, 1907. The work of cataloguing the books and getting them in order was performed by Miss Myrtle Crockett, Celina's first librarian, under the supervision of Miss Alice Smith, of Van Wert.

* * *

In 1902 Fayette street was paved with brick and the following year Livingston street was paved, after which Walnut and East Market streets were improved in like manner. Main street, upon which most of the business of the town is done, was paved in 1905. All these streets were paved with a hard-burned brick except East Market, which was paved with asphalt block. In 1906 the contract was let for the paving of West Market street. With this street paved, all the principal streets of Celina, so far as business is concerned, will be paved. No nicer or better thoroughfares can be found in a town of its size anywhere in the country.

MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS.

Celina has a limited number of manufacturing establishments, chief among which is that of The Mersman Bros., Brandts Company, manufacturers of both medium and high-grade extension dining tables, who give em-

ployment the year round to 125 men in the factory and 10 traveling salesmen on the road. Shipments are made to nearly every State in the Union and to Canada, the annual business amounting to over $200,000. The business was established in 1900 by J. B. Mersman, who at that time manufactured beds and parlor tables. At a later date the manufacture of dining tables was added and this has been the specialty of the company ever since. Before many months will have passed, the company will have the largest table factory in the United States. In 1901 J. B. Mersman sold the business to his sons, Edward H. and Walter J. Mersman, and Henry Lennartz, who conducted the business under the firm name of Lennartz & Mersman Brothers. In 1904 Edmund Brandts purchased one-half of Mr. Lennartz's interests, but the firm name was continued until May, 1906, when the Mersman brothers and Mr. Brandts purchased the remainder of Mr. Lennartz's interest, the firm becoming Mersman Brothers & Brandts. In September, 1906, the business was incorporated as The Mersman Bros., Brandts Company, under the laws of Ohio with a paid-up capital stock of $150,000 and the following officers: Edward H. Mersman, president and manager; Walter J. Mersman, vice-president and superintendent; and Edmund Brandts, secretary and treasurer. The board of directors consists of five members and includes the officers above mentioned, together with Albert Mersman and Hugo Brandts.

Buggies, surries, stanhopes and bikes are manufactured by William Cron, who has been in business at Celina for many years and has built up a lucrative trade. His is the largest carriage factory in Mercer County. A large force of men is employed in building carriages and also in general blacksmithing.

A. B. Grothjan conducts an extensive business in general blacksmithing, in connection with the building of carriages, buggies and all kinds of vehicles.

John Leifeld has also built up a large trade in the manufacture of carriages, buggies, surries and all kinds of vehicles, in connection with general blacksmithing.

The wood-working factory of the Ames Bending Company was brought here from Indiana some five years ago. The company enjoys a nice business and gives employment to quite a force of men. The plant has a capacity of two car-loads per day.

The Crampton Canning Company recently established a factory here for the canning of tomatoes, peas, sweet corn and other vegetables, for which this locality is justly noted. Employment is given to a large force in the canning season.

Estry & Stephenson operate a planing-mill and lumber business, which has been established for over 30 years. In 1880 Timmonds & Estry came into possession of the plant. In 1892 Edgar E. Stephenson purchased Tim-

monds' interest and the firm became Estry & Stephenson as at present. The business includes dealing in lumber and planing supplies and all kinds of building materials.

BANKS.

The town has three banks, which furnish all the capital that the town requires for the ordinary purposes of carrying on its trade. All are recognized as safe depositaries for the money and valuables of its customers. Each and every one of them are looked upon as being honestly conducted by safe and reliable men.

The Citizens' Banking Company, the oldest of the banks, was organized on May 1, 1873, as the Citizens' Bank of Celina. In 1897 it was incorporated as the Citizens' Banking Company. The bank is capitalized at $50,000, has a surplus fund of $10,000, and has over $500,000 on deposit. John W. DeFord was cashier from the organization of the bank for 25 years, when he became president, which position he now holds. Henry Lennartz is cashier.

The Commercial Bank Company is the successor of the Celina Building & Loan Association, the first building and loan association organized here, on February 2, 1870. Two years later, Thomas J. Godfrey, with Dr. D. Milligan and his son, bought the entire stock of the association, surrendered its charter and proceeded to organize a banking house, which came into being in February, 1874, as Milligan, Godfrey & Company. This was later succeeded by Godfrey & Milligan, which firm continued until 1888, when Calvin E. Riley became a partner. The business was incorporated in 1893 and on January 1, 1901, it was merged into the Commercial Bank Company. This financial institution is capitalized at $50,000 and has a surplus fund of $10,000. Calvin E. Riley is president and J. B. Pulskamp, cashier.

The First National Bank began business January 1, 1901, and is the first and only national bank in the town or county. The deposits of this bank on September 4, 1906, were $639,419.42. The bank is capitalized at $50,000 and has a surplus fund of $17,500. James H. Day is president and C. H. Howick, cashier.

NEWSPAPERS.

The first newspaper was established in Celina, August 4, 1848, and bore on the first page, "J. S. Millard, Printer, L. G. Smith, Publisher." In 1850 the paper passed into the hands of W. L. Blocher and S. S. Snyder and was published by this firm under the name of *The Western Standard* until 1854. A. P. J. Snyder came to Celina in 1851 and worked in the office as compositor until 1854, when he bought Judge Blocher's interest in the paper. The partnership lasted until 1865, when the paper was sold to D. J. Callen. In

1866 A. P. J. Snyder again took the office and became sole owner of the newspaper that has attained long life under the name of the *Mercer County Standard.*

In 1895 and 1896 the *Standard* was a twice-a-week publication. It then resumed the weekly form.

After Mr. Snyder's death in 1901, the publication of the *Standard* was continued under the management of his son, F. A. Snyder.

In December, 1905, the publication of the *Daily Standard* was begun in connection with the *Weekly* and this marked a new era in local newspaper enterprise.

The *Standard* points with pride to the fact that it is one of the oldest newspaper plants in Northwestern Ohio and that its long career has been devoted exclusively to the upbuilding of Celina and Mercer County.

The *Western Democrat,* now the *Mercer County Observer,* was established in September, 1874, by J. B. Perwessel & Company, D. J. Callen being the editor, who was succeeded by J. G. Loughridge.

J. E. Blizzard purchased and took possession April 27, 1876, and changed the name to the *Mercer County Observer.* L. S. Jameson & Company, in August, 1880, purchased the establishment. They sold it in 1893 to G. S. Harter, who sold it to the present owners, Gilberg & Chapman, in July, 1895. The paper is Republican in politics and the only Republican newspaper in the county.

The *Bote,* a weekly German paper, was established in 1883 by Mr. Stelzer, who was owner and proprietor for a long time. It is now edited and published by George J. Pulskamp.

The *Democrat* was established in 1895 and is a weekly sheet, Democratic in politics. It was formerly published by Carlin & Phillipps, but is now owned and published by Charles Carlin.

The *Advocate* was established a few years ago by the present proprietor and publisher, George Phillipps, who was formerly interested with Charles Carlin in publishing the *Democrat.*

SCHOOLS.

Until the fall of 1859, school in Sub-District No. 4, of Jefferson township, at Celina, which sub-district was established some years before by virtue of a public meeting held for this purpose, was taught in various buildings, chiefly, however, in the old Presbyterian Church on East Fayette street. Two teachers were usually employed in the winter season and one in the summer. In 1859 a brick schoolhouse on the west side of town, containing four rooms, was built and two teachers employed. This house answered the purpose for 15 years. In the early '60's an agreement was entered into, by

the terms of which the territory in the sub-district lying outside of the incorporated village was attached to the village for school purposes. An agreement was also entered into with regard to the Union schoolhouse. In June, 1871, the board resolved to have the German language taught and accordingly appointed Theodore Geithouse as German teacher.

The original schoolhouse of four rooms proving inadequate for the needs of the growing town, the board, on August 16, 1873, awarded to Rouzer & Gill the contract for making certain desired changes and additions, which added eight rooms to the first structure and made it a three-story building. On February 27, 1874, the Board of Education passed a resolution to close the school early that spring for the purpose of building the new schoolhouse, with the understanding that all teachers then employed should have the preference when school should be resumed. Dr. Joseph N. Hetzler was appointed superintendent of construction, to see that the contractors took no privileges that the contract did not allow. Shortly after this, in April, Rouzer & Gill disposed of their contract to Gable, Sanders & Company. On June 10, 1874, the board awarded the contract for a slate roof to Bovinger & Brothers. Seats for six rooms were contracted for at a total cost of $1,155. On September 19, 1874, the board contracted with Mr. Long for a fence, similar to the one put around the Court House. On October 5, 1874, the building was accepted from the contractors as being finished in accordance with the plans and specifications, and bonds were accordingly issued. The whole amount of bonds was $24,892; these bonds were refunded some years later and were finally paid off in 1899.

Twenty years later, in 1894, the growth and progress of the schools making another schoolhouse a necessity, a model two-story brick schoolhouse was built on the east side of town, at a cost of $13,034. With this addition, ample room was secured for all the school children of the town as well as a great many pupils from all parts of the county, who were educated in the common and high school branches and also fitted for entrance to colleges and universities. But finally, in 1906, after many years of service, the West school building, erected in 1874, was condemned by the State building inspector, who ordered it torn down.

For the purpose of building a new, modern, two-story, brick schoolhouse on the site of the old West school building the Board of Education was authorized at a special election held for this purpose to issue bonds to the amount of $35,000. Wilbur T. Mills, of Columbus, submitted plans for this building, which were accepted and bids for the construction of the same were received from various contractors. The contract was awarded to John P. Tennent & Son, of Celina, their bid being $41,586.73, which included bid of $300 for the old building. As this bid exceeded the amount of money that

the Board of Education could apply for this purpose and as about $6,000 more would be required to install a heating apparatus, besides the amount required for necessary furnishings, the board has decided to submit a proposition to the people to issue an additional amount of bonds in the sum of $15,000 in order that the building may be erected according to the architect's plans. This additional amount will also pay for the furnace. It is confidently expected that this additional issue of bonds will be authorized by the people. When this new building is complete, it will indeed be a credit to the town and will at the same time be large enough to meet the requirements of the school children for a number of years to come.

The total enrollment of the Celina schools is in excess of 600, of which amount 100 pupils attend the High School. Sixteen teachers, of whom four are in the High School, look after the interests of the children. The schools at the present time are under the superintendency of Prof. Sylvester Wilkin, while Prof. J. W. Pogue is principal of the High School. The following have been the superintendents of the public schools of Celina since 1857: M. C. Culver, S. F. DeFord, Stephen A. Armstrong, Edward Landfair, I. F. Raudabaugh, Frank J. Barnard, John W. Brock, Professor Clippinger, John W. Loree, Van B. Baker, Professor Kennedy, George S. Harter, R. W. Mitchell, P. C. Zemer and Sylvester Wilkin, the present incumbent, who has held the office since January 11, 1905.

A High School has been maintained at Celina for at least 40 years, for on September 14, 1866, S. F. DeFord was elected superintendent of the Celina schools and teacher of the High School. The Celina High School is classed as a first-grade school and its diplomas receive as much recognition from the leading colleges of Ohio as diplomas from schools in larger towns and cities of the State. The territory of the Celina schools reaches beyond the limits of the corporation and the school district for school purposes alone takes in additional territory much larger than Celina corporation. For several years past the smaller school districts in the vicinity have been hauling their children to the Celina schools, thinking it cheaper to follow this plan than to hire teachers and maintain their schools at home.

The present Board of Education consists of the following named gentlemen: Frank V. Short (president), W. W. Shock (secretary), John W. Loree, Samuel J. Vining and William Pumphrey. The following are the names of most of the school directors for the period embraced by the years 1859 and 1880: Joel K. Brandon, John Luck, Dr. Milton M. Miller, Abner Davis, Hiram Murlin, W. E. Baker, A. W. Wyckoff, S. S. Snyder, George Petrie, James H. Day, Joseph May, F. C. LeBlond, R. G. Blake, George Stuck, J. B. Perwessel, Thomas J. Godfrey, Dr. Joseph N. Hetzler, Chris-

topher Schunck, Edward Landfair, Jacob Kreusch, H. H. Pulskamp, T. G. Tou Velle and Davis Guy.

* * *

Mention of the Immaculate Conception Parochial School, of Celina will be found on another page of this volume, in the chapter devoted to the Roman Catholic churches and institutions of the county.

CHURCHES.

First Presbyterian Church.—The original proprietors of the town of Celina donated, for the use of the Presbyterian Church, lot 149, which was to be used for no other than church purposes. Rev. I. N. Taylor was the first pastor of the New School Presbyterian congregation, whose church building was erected in 1840. The eldership consisted of Andrew Crockett; and the members were Maria M. Crockett, Samuel Jackson, Nathan E. Mead, Abigail Mead, Ezra Hyatt, Mrs. John Brown, Mrs. Davenport, Mr. Ruckman and wife and Mrs. C. Maurer and sister. Mr. Taylor resigned his charge and moved to Indiana in 1844, having been elected to a professorship in Liber College. The church building was occasionally occupied by Methodists and other denominations until 1847. For the period between 1844 and 1847 the Presbyterian congregation had no regular minister. In 1847 it was re-organized by Rev. Templeton. The elders were Samuel Ruckman and Stephen Hight; the members: Mrs. Catharine Timmonds, Miss Frances A. Timmonds, Catharine Hight and William Hight. Preaching was held part of the time by all denominations until 1854; in this period Rev. Boggs and Rev. Halliday were pastors of the Presbyterian congregation. Rev. Smith, who came after them, remained with the congregation one year, after which the organization was disbanded.

On June 12, 1870, the presbytery appointed a committee of ministers, consisting of Rev. A. Telford and Rev. Samuel Cunningham Kerr, to reorganize the church at Celina. The sermon was preached by Rev. A. Telford and the following persons produced letters of dismission and recommendation for membership: William Hight, Teresa Hight, M. C. Culver, Helen H. Culver, Lydia J. Miller and Mrs. G. W. Timmonds, of the St. Mary's Church, who were organized as the First Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Catharine Miller, on June 4, 1871, Mrs. Mary Eriton, on March 6, 1875 and Mrs. Susan Snyder, each produced certificates and were received in membership. William Hight and M. C. Culver were elected and ordained ruling elders.

On July 19, 1878, Rev. E. S. Scott, of Delphos, Ohio, and Elders Oliver Jay, of St. Marys, and B. W. Roebuck, of Center Presbyterian churches,

re-organized the church, which ceremonies were held in the Lutheran Church. The following persons were admitted: M. Schuyler, Mrs. M. Schuyler, Mrs. Eliza Schuyler, Miss Mahala Stevens, Mrs. Helen Smith and John P. McAfee, from the United Presbyterian Church. On July 20, 1878, M. Schuyler and J. P. McAfee were elected and ordained ruling elders, and were ordained by Rev. E. S. Scott and Rev. Thomas Elcock on the following day. Rev. Lawson took temporary charge as pastor on April 1, 1879. On October 2, 1879, James Broadwell, L. S. Jameson and Mrs. Matilda Jameson were admitted as members.

On January 15, 1881, the trustees of the First Presbyterian Church of Celina met to organize. Those present were Gideon LeBlond, Davis Guy, Thomas J. Godfrey, J. P. McAfee and A. P. J. Snyder. Davis Guy was elected chairman, J. P. McAfee, secretary and Gideon LeBlond, treasurer.

The first Presbyterian Church was erected on lot 149 and was 20 by 30 feet in dimensions. The ceiling was finished with planed boards instead of plastering and it was weather-boarded. After the church was dissolved, it was used as a schoolhouse and the following teachers occupied it as such: In 1842-43, Dr. Milton M. Miller; in 1854 and subsequent years, L. D. Carlin, Cynthia Prouty, Jemima Breckon, Annie Armstrong and Miss Timmonds.

The new brick church, which is the one now in use, was erected in 1882 on lot 305, on the corner of Walnut and Fulton streets. The church was dedicated in August of that year and is nicely finished and furnished. A new house for the pastor was built a few years ago and is an up-to-date dwelling, costing about $3,000. The estimated value of the church property is $7,500. The ministers who have filled the pulpit since 1878 are: Revs. Lawson, J. M. Anderson, Thomas Elcock (supply for a short time), J. S. Axtell (who served the church longer than any other minister), John Wilson, Bartlett, A. Barber, F. J. Kreager, John McMurray and F. M. Kumler, the present pastor, who recently moved here from De Graff, Ohio. The present membership of the congregation is 60. The average Sunday-school attendance is 60. The Sunday-school was organized June 23, 1878, with 80 scholars and five teachers, by Rev. La Porter.

St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church.—The first Methodist class formed in Mercer County was in 1832, in a log schoolhouse, and consisted of seven members, namely: Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Forbes, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hanson, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rider and George Parrott, who was the leader of the class.

In 1838 a Methodist class was organized at Celina by Revs. George Armstrong and Greenburg Vincent, the members consisting of Thomas Martin and wife, Enos Hays and wife, Susan Riley, William Dibble, Alonzo Hays

and wife, William Allen and wife, Zophar Williams and wife and Samuel Dellinger. The establishment of the Celina Church, however, did not really take place until 1843. In the preceding year Rev. Edward Williams, of the St. Marys Circuit, held a meeting in Celina, which resulted in the establishment of a church in the following year. David Gray was appointed class leader and exhorter. The members of the class were: George Allen and wife, Ellen Culbertson, Mrs. McMahon, Mrs. Kable and Levi and Eliza Dibble.

In 1856 the first Methodist Episcopal Church was built at Celina. The present structure known as St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church was erected in 1892 under the supervision of the pastor and trustees, being built on the site of the old frame church. It is a handsome brick structure, 50 by 104 feet in size, and cost about $15,000, which includes furniture and organ all complete. It is nicely furnished with up-to-date furniture and has a fine pipe organ, which cost $900. The seating capacity of the auditorium and the large Sunday-school room is 850 people. The parsonage, adjoining the church on East Fulton street, with the lot, is valued at $3,000. St. Paul's has a membership of 430 and the average attendance at Sunday-school is 215.

The following pastors have served the church since 1842: Revs. Edward Williams and J. W. McNabb, Samuel Beatty and Amos Wilson, Alexander Harmount and C. H. Owens, John R. Jewett and James M. Barr (succeeded by Thomas W. Bowdle), C. B. Brandebury and Elisha Hock, Samuel L. Yourtee, Samuel P. Guiberson, N. O. Conn and Samuel P. Guiberson, Ralph Wilcox, Joseph W. Wykes, G. Lease, Wesley Brock, George O. McPherson, Samuel Boggs, James F. Mounts and Amos Lee, Lemuel Herbert and James F. Mounts, Philip A. Brown and Caleb Hill, David Bull and A. J. Frisbee, David Bull and Amos Lee, E. G. Longsworth and Harrison Maltbie, E. G. Longsworth and John F. Miller, Cornelius Weaner, John C. Clemens, O. A. Palmer, P. Le Masters, J. S. McKean, Reuben Rauth, Peter Biggs, Caleb Hill, Lyman E. Prentiss, Joseph H. Cater, Alexander Harmount, W. R. Seuman, A. E. Smith, Daniel Carter, Joseph H. Bethards, Stewart Baumgardner, Clayton Smucker and Parker P. Pope, who has been pastor since 1903.

Free Methodist Church.—A class of this denomination has held services for some time past in the church building formerly the home of the Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Church. The membership of the congregation is 20. The pastor at the present time is Rev. Ollie Judy.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized in Celina in 1868 and the church building was completed in 1872. This is a frame building, 40 by 26 feet in dimensions, with a steeple and bell. It was

erected at a cost of $1,800. The first pastor of the church was Rev. Conrad Eppens, in 1872, who served one year in Celina and in Liberty township. He was succeeded by Rev. Burkhardt, who in turn was followed by Rev. Crouse, who also preached at St. Marys. The fourth pastor, Rev. Charles Bohner, served three years; he was followed by Rev. J. G. Schwemley and he by Rev. A. J. Fager, who served in 1878 and 1879. From the latter date to 1892 there was no regular pastor and services were only held occasionally. In 1892 Rev. Ernest Shultz became pastor and filled the pulpit until 1898, when he was succeeded by Rev. E. Lehne who served from 1898 to 1900. After his departure there was no regular pastor for a year or so. In 1901 Rev. William Emch became pastor and served to 1903, Rev. E. J. Mack followed, 1904-05, and Rev. J. E. Harman, the present pastor, assumed charge in 1906.

During the ministry of Rev. Ernest Shultz a parsonage was built on the church lot at a cost of $1,500. The church property itself is estimated to be worth about $1,000. The congregation has a membership of 120 and the average attendance at Sunday-school is 74.

Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Church.—This church was organized January 6, 1868, and continued in existence for quite a number of years but it is now extinct and for many years the church building has been used as a meeting place for other denominations. The church structure was commenced in 1868 and finished in 1870, being 26 by 40 feet in ground dimensions, 20 feet high and with a steeple 45 feet in height. It cost about $1,800. It was dedicated January 14, 1871. The lot upon which the church stands was donated by Mrs. Maria Breo. The trustees at the organization of the church and who took subscriptions were: John M. Pohlman, Frederick Schwaberon, William Dickman and H. H. Klare. From 1853 to date of completion of the church—1871—Lutheran services were held in Celina by various pastors from other towns, the preaching being held in the schoolhouse, in private houses and in the Presbyterian Church. Subsequent to the erection of the church the following were the first pastors: Revs. Conrad Eppens, Newschmidt, Rehsteiner (a Jewish convert), Krauser, Burkhardt and Charles Bohner.

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.—The history of this flourishing Celina church will be found elsewhere in this work, in the chapter devoted to Roman Catholic churches and institutions of the county.

CELINA CEMETERY ASSOCIATION.

The North Grove Cemetery, Celina's silent city of the dead, dates from the year 1870, when the Celina Cemetery Association was formed. The

articles of association, bearing date of September 26, 1870, read as follows: "We, the undersigned citizens of Celina, Mercer County, Ohio, hereby associate ourselves together for cemetery purposes, to be known as the Celina Cemetery Association, to purchase, in the aggregate, not to exceed fifteen acres of land, to be held and controlled by said Association exclusively for cemetery purposes, in pursuance to the statute in such case made and provided." These articles were signed by Henry L. Johnson, M. Bailey, Gideon Le Blond, H. H. Klare, Keepers Alberry, John M. Pohlman, Hiram Murlin, S. S. Snyder, F. C. Le Blond, J. K. Baker, A. P. J. Snyder, John Shepherd, J. W. Crockett, Charles Fanger, William Dickman, J. H. Beam, D. Rush, Daniel Kable, A. Fanger, Samuel Welty, D. F. Parrott, M. Schuyler, Joel K. Brandon, J. O. Schuyler, John Luck, D. Hellwarth, E. U. Shepherd, Milton M. Miller, N. A. Meeker, P. P. King, S. F. DeFord, R. W. Small, Adam Baker, N. P. Guffey, Calvin E. Riley, William Nickel, S. N. Tou Velle, George Stuck, Joseph N. Hetzler, T. G. Tou Velle, S. B. Shipley, James H. Day, S. L. Ehret, Thomas J. Godfrey, Davis Guy, Alexander Wyckoff, Abner Davis and J. W. Riley. The by-laws, adopted October 22, 1870, provided for five trustees, a secretary and a treasurer, who were elected on the same day, as follows: Trustees—Gideon Le Blond (president), Thomas J. Godfrey, Joel K. Brandon, William Dickman and Henry L. Johnson; secretary, Keepers Alberry; and treasurer, Abner Davis. The trustees and officers for 1906 were as follows: Trustees—Charles Fanger (president), John M. Pohlman, P. A. Ellis, Dr. D. H. Richardson and Thomas J. Godfrey; secretary, R. R. Wyckoff; and treasurer, Calvin E. Riley.

FRATERNAL AND BENEVOLENT ORGANIZATIONS.

Celina Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, No. 241.—The Masons residing in Celina, believing it to be their duty as well as their desire, presented a petition to the M. W. William P. Hubbard, Grand Master, on May 28, 1853. The petition was signed by Smith H. Clark, Robert L. McGinnis, E. T. Williamson, F. C. Le Blond, L. C. Finley, Daniel Hartkopf, M. M. Miller and William Hunter, and was granted by the Grand Master. The first meeting under the dispensation was held June 16, 1853, in a hall prepared for the occasion. The officers named in the dispensation were: Smith H. Clark, worshipful master; Robert L. McGinnis, senior warden and E. T. Williamson, junior warden. F. C. Le Blond was appointed treasurer; William Hunter, secretary; L. C. Finley, senior deacon; Milton M. Miller, junior deacon; and Daniel Hartkopf, tyler.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio, in annual session October 20, 1853, at Chillicothe, Ross County, Ohio, granted the charter prayed for in their dis-

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, CELINA

THE FIRST CHURCH BUILT IN CELINA

(Built by the Presbyterian Society: later used by the Methodists as a school house; now used as a stable

WATER-WORKS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT, CELINA

RICHARDSON BLOCK, CELINA

pensation on May 28, 1853, the charter being signed by the following grand officers: L. V. Pierce, R. W. G. M.; W. B. Dodds, R. W. D. G. M.; Matthew Carro, R. W. G. W.; M. D. Brock, R. W. J. G. W.; and John D. Caldwell, R. W. G. S.

Under the charter the following brethren have filled the office of worshipful master of Celina Lodge, and accordingly rank as past masters: Smith H. Clark, U. D., 1853; William Hunter, 1854, 1855, 1856; Smith H. Clark, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860; A. P. J. Snyder, 1861; W. E. Baker, 1862; Philo Le Blond, 1863, Thomas J. Godfrey, 1864; Joseph N. Hetzler, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868; Alexander Wyckoff, 1869, 1870; Joseph N. Hetzler, 1871, 1872, 1873; Thomas J. Godfrey, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878; D. J. Roop, 1879; Thomas J. Godfrey, 1880, 1881; Alexander Wyckoff, 1882, 1883; H. A. Raudabaugh, 1884; G. J. C. Wintermute, 1885; J. M. Lisle, 1886; John W. Loree, 1887, 1888; G. J. C. Wintermute, 1889; J. O. Schuyler, 1890, 1891; H. W. Hassman, 1892; W. F. McDaniel, 1893; G. J. C. Wintermute, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898; W. F. McDaniel, 1899; S. S. Scranton, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903; Frank V. Short, 1904; and Fred Olnhausen, 1905, 1906. Since the organization of the lodge, 19 brethren have served as worshipful master. The longest service was that of the late Thomas J. Godfrey, who held the office eight years in all. Joseph N. Hetzler and G. J. C. Wintermute each held the office seven years.

The officers for Celina Lodge for 1906 were as follows: Fred Olnhausen, W. M.; K. D. Hellwarth, S. W.; I. F. Raudabaugh, J. W.; Calvin E. Riley, treasurer; Ashley M. Riley, secretary; B. R. Shipp, S. D.; J. E. Berry, J. D.; and A. W. Meister, tyler. The lodge has a membership of 85.

Celina Chapter, No. 120, Royal Arch Masons.—A dispensation was granted December 3, 1869, to Companions F. C. Le Blond, Philo Le Blond, Joseph N. Hetzler, Theophilus G. Tou Velle, Gideon Le Blond, John W. De Ford, A. P. J. Snyder, James Johnson, Hiram Shaw, S. R. Mott, J. M. Davidson, C. W. Alexander, John D. Ralston, John P. Dysert and N. P. Shanklin. The officers under the dispensation were: Joseph N. Hetzler, H. P.; Gideon Le Blond, K.; James H. Day, S. The charter was issued September 14, 1874, and signed by the following grand officers: Charles C. Keifer, G. H. P.; J. A. Riddle, D. G. H. P.; W. F. Rudensten, G. K.; J. A. Retteg, G. S.; John D. Caldwell, grand secretary. The officers installed under the charter were the following: Joseph N. Hetzler, H. P.; F. C. Le Blond, K.; James Johnston, S.

Companion Joseph N. Hetzler served as high priest from 1870 to 1886, inclusive, with the exception of a single year, when James H. Day filled the office. Companion Gideon Le Blond served as secretary from 1870 to about 1886. The following companions have served as high priest of Celina

Chapter since Joseph N. Hetzler: G. S. Harter, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891; E. F. Everist, 1892; S. S. Scranton, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899; G. J. C. Wintermute, 1900; J. E. Hattery, 1901, 1902, 1903; John W. Loree, 1904, 1905; and Kenneth D. Hellwarth, 1906. Ashley M. Riley has been secretary for the past six years.

The officers of Celina Chapter for 1906 were: Kenneth D. Hellwarth, H. P.; G. J. C. Wintermute, K.; Isaac N. Medford, S.; Fred Olnhausen, C. H.; S. S. Scranton, P. S.; B. R. Shipp, R. A. C.; H. W. Hassman, G. M. 3rd V.; W. E. Wilson, G. M. 2nd V.; D. H. Richardson, G. M. 1st V.; John W. DeFord, treasurer; Ashley M. Riley, secretary; P. A. Ellis, G. The chapter has 75 members.

Celina Chapter, No. 91, Order of the Eastern Star, was granted a charter at a meeting of the Grand Chapter of Ohio, held October 14, 1898, having worked under dispensation from January, 1898, to October 14th. The grand officers at this time were Mary C. Gladding, grand worthy matron; John Blythe, grand worthy patron; and Ella B. Shearer, grand secretary. The charter members of the chapter were the following: Susan Snyder, G. J. C. Wintermute, S. S. Scranton, Martha E. Scranton, Henry Morningstar, Emma Morningstar, P. A. Ellis, Harriet Ellis, Lorinda Godfrey, J. E. Hattery, Mary Hattery, W. F. McDaniel, Mary McDaniel, William Hassman, Rhetta Harring, Elvira Harring, Mary L. Tou Velle, Mary E. Tou Velle, Savella Tou Velle, Lizzie Feldheiser, Tennie Zay, Sarah J. Roop, Evelina Riley, Susan A. Riley, Mary Schuyler, Emily P. Le Blond, Alice Brownlie and Anna Struckman. The first officers of the chapter were Susan A. Riley, worthy matron; G. J. C. Wintermute, worthy patron; Harriet Ellis, associate matron; Tennie Zay, secretary; and Emily P. Le Blond, treasurer. The following have served as worthy matrons: Susan A. Riley, 1898, 1899; Lydia Lisle, 1900; Gabrilla Dickman, 1901, 1902; Mary Schuyler, 1903; Alice Brownlie, 1904; Kate H. Bretz, 1905, 1906; and Agnes Snyder, elected for the year 1907. The officers for 1906 were the following: Kate H. Bretz, worthy matron; S. S. Scranton, worthy patron; Anna Struckman, associate matron; Ida Stubbs, secretary; Mary L. Richardson, treasurer; and Beryl L. Scranton, pianist. The following are the officers elected for 1907: Agnes Snyder, worthy matron; B. R. Shipp, worthy patron; Martha E. Scranton, associate matron; Gabrilla Dickman, secretary; Mary L. Richardson, treasurer; and Beryl L. Scranton, pianist. Celina Chapter, which has a membership of 125, holds its meetings in Masonic Hall. Gabrilla Dickman, past worthy matron of Celina Chapter, No. 91, was elected grand worthy matron of the State of Ohio at the meeting of the Grand Chapter held at Toledo in October, 1905.

Celina Lodge, No. 399, Independent Order of Odd Fellows was con-

stituted at Celina by M. W. Brother, John A. Lee, grand master of the State of Ohio, on July 20, 1867. The grand officers' names attached to the charter of the lodge are: John A. Lee, M. W. grand master; James A. Semple, R. W. deputy grand master; Henry Lindenberg, R. W. grand warden; G. D. Winshall, R. W. grand treasurer; and W. C. Earl, R. W. grand secretary.

The following are the names of some of the brethren who have served as noble grand of Celina Lodge and by reason of such service are members of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the State of Ohio: Milton M. Miller, Keepers Alberry, Jonathan Shepherd, Stephen A. Armstrong, M. Schuyler, J. F. Timmonds, Charles Fanger, William Dickman, A. Fanger, S. P. McGriff, J. P. McAfee, M. Feldheiser, George Smith and M. B. Alberry.

The officers of the lodge for 1907 are as follows: O. D. Wagner, N. G.; S. M. Fisher, V. G.; Frank J. Pierstorf, recording secretary; J. S. Pumphrey, financial secretary; and Charles McComb, treasurer. Judge C. S. Younger is the representative to the Grand Lodge for District No. 29, comprising 10 lodges in Mercer and Auglaize counties. Celina Lodge has a present membership of 175 and meets in the I. O. O. F. Hall, which is located at the corner of Main and Fayette streets in the third story of the building erected by Messrs. Dickman and Hellwarth.

Celina Encampment, No. 231, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.—The present officers of the encampment are: Charles McComb, chief patriarch; Otis Monroe, senior warden; J. S. Pumphrey, recording secretary; A. C. F. Gilberg, financial secretary; and James F. Monroe, treasurer.

Queen Rebekah Lodge, No. 245, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted May 18, 1888. The following were charter members: William Krenning, E. F. Krenning, D. J. Roop, Sarah J. Roop, L. S. Jameson, Mattie Jameson, William Dickman, Ettie Dickman, Phene Shepherd, Clarinda Clark, John Raudabaugh, Stephen A. Armstrong, M. McDaniel, Jennie McDaniel, George S. Smith, Ella Smith, Mollie Timmonds and Lizzie Feldheiser. The officers for 1907 are as follows: Nora Bryan, P. N. G.; Blanche Andrews, N. G.; Anna Ayers, V. G.; Savella Staeger, R. S.; Jessie Raudabaugh, F. S.; and Lizzie Kistler, T. The lodge has a present membership of 125 and meets in the I. O. O. F. Hall.

Celina Lodge, No. 129, Knights of Pythias, was organized and instituted at Celina on the 8th day of September, 1881, by C. D. Iddings, P. G. C., of Dayton, Ohio. The charter members of the lodge were: J. C. Porterfield, J. P. McAfee, Charles P. Winslow, John W. DeFord, John W. Loree, J. W. Dickman, J. W. Riley, G. E. Nungester, A. J. Knox, G. W. Williams, Ed. Shaffer, S. R. Kimble, Wm. C. Snyder, C. H. Snyder, Harmon Myers, W. W. Timmonds, V. N. Estry, C. C. Gable, Eli Bryson, G. W. Smith, John

Nickel, P. A. Ellis and John W. McKee. The first officers were: John W. McKee, P. C.; John W. Loree, C. C.; Charles P. Winslow, V. C.; G. E. Nungester, prelate; Charles C. Gable, M. at A.; J. P. McAfee, K. of R. & S.; C. H. Snyder, M. of E.; J. W. Dickman, M. of F.; G. W. Williams, I. G.; and Edward Shaffer, O. G. The officers for 1907 are: R. C. Nungester, C. C.; Harry Beam, V. C.; Edgar Baker, prelate; L. L. Marsh, M. at A.; A. J. Zender, M. of W.; William E. Reynolds, K. of R. & S.; Ashley M. Riley, M. of E.; V. N. Estry, M. of F.; Lewis Tennent, I. G.; C. E. Burkholder, O. G.; trustees—C. A. Wyckoff, H. D. Miesse and J. A. Hoagland. The present membership of the lodge is 100.

Celina Temple, No. 197, Pythian Sisters, was organized in 1903. The first officers, who were also charter members, were: Kate Estry, past chief; Alice Brownlie, M. E. C.; Mayme Arbaugh, E. S.; Lela Thompson, E. J.; Anna Howick, manager; Laura Dysert, M. of R.; Minnie Bretz, M. of F.; and Minnie Applas, secretary. The temple has a present membership of 50. The officers for 1907 are as follows: Ada Vining, M. E. C.; Kate Estry, E. S.; Hannah Brumm, E. J.; Hazel Dull, manager; Nora Kistler, M. of R.; Nora Bryan, M. of F.; and Mrs. John Raudabaugh, secretary.

Le Blond Post, No. 175, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized December 7, 1881, with the following charter members: D. J. Roop, Frank M. Work, J. W. Riley, L. B. Robbins, Peter Cegrand, James Hedrick, Israel Cook, John A. Walter, L. S. Jameson, G. J. C. Wintermute, J. H. Murphy, Gideon Le Blond, D. Rush, M. V. B. Greck, John Hess, J. F. Timmonds, S. R. Beam, S. C. McBarren, John Hoppel, J. Charter, W. H. Smith, Hiram Long, C. H. Hitchens, C. W. Bodkin, C. R. Coate, D. D. Keller, Abraham Stephens, S. H. Clark. The first officers were the following: D. J. Roop, commander; J. W. Riley, senior vice-commander; J. H. Murphy, junior vice-commander; J. F. Timmonds, adjutant; G. J. C. Wintermute, surgeon; L. S. Jameson, chaplain; Peter Cegrand, quartermaster; C. W. Bodkin, officer of the day; John Hoppel, officer of the guard; Israel Cook, sergeant major; Hiram Long, quartermaster sergeant; and S. R. Beam, aide-de-camp. The post surrendered its charter some time ago.

German Independent Aid Society of Celina.—This society, which was organized for the mutual benefit and aid of its members in case of sickness and death, was chartered February 6, 1881. The charter members were 35 in number, as follows: John E. Hamburger, Peter Schunck, John Hoppel, Peter Cegrand, Joseph K. Zender, John H. Wenning, John Kistler, John Stark, B. Griewe, A. L. Zender, O. H. Andreas, J. C. Schmitt, Michael Schmitt, John Hasse, William Dickman, Leonard Gebele, Phil. Sauer, George Kroeger, Joseph Schmitt, Fred Stelzer, David Hellwarth, George Gebele, Henry Bernard, Charles Stachler, Charles Schlosser, Jacob Kreusch, William

Leifeld, Henry Walter, John H. Gast, Mathias Winter, Charles Wehrle, Mathias Kreusch, Joseph Kreusch, Frank Miller and Michael Linn. William Dickman was president for many years in the early history of the society. The following have served as officers from 1902 to the present time: John Beiersdorfer, president; John E. Hamburger, vice-president; Barney Otting, recording secretary; Fred Laudahn, financial secretary; and O. H. Andreas, treasurer. The board of trustees consists of five members, namely: Val. Fortman (president), Anton Schunck (secretary), Frank Wolf (treasurer), Charles Muther and Edmund Brandts.

White Oak Camp, No. 41, Woodmen of the World, at Celina, was instituted January 25, 1898, with the following officers and charter members: Leonard B. Pumphrey, consul commander; Milton M. Betz, adviser lieutenant; P. T. Waters, banker; Dr. Frank E. Ayers, clerk; William Ayers, watchman; Thomas B. Clark, sentry; Dr. D. H. Richardson, John S. Gooden and George Orr, managers; Dr. Frank E. Ayers, physician. The present officers are as follows: W. H. Conner, consul commander; Lewis Colton, adviser lieutenant; Charles Franks, banker; Leonard B. Pumphrey, clerk; Harry Weamer, escort; Newton Miller, watchman; Luther Baucher, sentry; and Lewis Hoel, C. J. Kistler and Charles Hoel, managers. The membership is 107.

Celina Home, No. 68, Home Guards of America, was organized in 1899 with the following charter members, 30 in number: Abraham Burris, Charles Fox, A. J. Richardson, Fred J. Laudahn, John C. Moore, John C. Kistler, John Q. Mesarvey, Simon Krigel, Peter Krigel, Philip Linn, S. F. Hixon, Minnie B. Stemen, Joseph F. Stemen, L. J. Brandon, E. J. Ley, Firmas Miller, Charles E. Slusser, George A. Brown, Cyrus C. Major, J. E. Hattery, Katie Krigel, W. B. Jackson, Mary J. Jackson, Richard Betz, Henry F. Knoth, John B. Krigel, George A. Petrie, Elmer Baisinger, Joseph F. Tebben and Joseph J. Krigel. The officers for 1907 are as follows: William Curry, W. C.; Charles Schlosser, Jr., P. C.; Nelson Hoenie, V. C.; Attie Hoenie, chaplain; Francis Bils, secretary; S. J. Pumphrey, treasurer; Joseph Huesing, collector; Dr. P. E. Riley, medical director; Abraham Burris, guide; Laura Karr, conductor; Nobe Weaver, 1st shield; Josephine Mesarvey, 2nd shield; Alvenia Kistler, musician.

Celina Aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles, was instituted January 16, 1906, and has a present membership of 108. The following are the officers for 1906: A. J. Zender, worthy president; J. J. Bedell, worthy vice-president; L. L. Marsh, chaplain; William Pumphrey, conductor; Philip Linn, inner guard; Urban Hinders, outer guard; Frank J. Wolf, treasurer; W. E. Reynolds, secretary; and P. H. Schunck, Ed. Ungerer, Joseph Depweg, trustees.

St. Sebastian's Commandery, No. 303, Knights of St. John, of Celina,

was chartered February 14, 1897, with 69 charter members, by Gen. H. J. Werst, supreme president of the Knights of St. John. There were 30 uniform members and 39 non-uniform members. The first officers were: President, J. B. Pulskamp; secretary, Frank C. Stark; captain, Lawrence Schunck. The present officers of the commandery are: Spiritual director, Rev. George Hindelang; president, J. H. Winkeljohann; 1st vice-president, Joseph F. Meyer; 2nd vice-president, J. H. Pulskamp; recording and corresponding secretary, John M. Schlosser; financial secretary, John B. Schmitt; treasurer, Peter Stachler; trustees—W. F. Schunck, John Dorsten, Joseph F. Tebben, Joseph Schmitt and J. B. Pulskamp; commander and captain, J. H. Pulskamp; 1st vice-commander, Joseph F. Meyer; 2nd vice-commander, John B. Schmitt; delegates—John M. Schlosser and W. F. Schunck. The commandery is in a fairly prosperous condition, although the membership is only about 35 at this time. It has accomplished much good for the sick and needy and has helped out many a brother knight in times of affliction and death.

Literary Clubs of Celina.—The History Club was organized in 1892 and was federated in 1900. Mrs. C. A. McKim served as president or leader of the club until 1906. Mrs. Landfair served as the first secretary and continued as such for a number of years. Mrs. R. R. Wyckoff and Mrs. W. E. Tou Velle have also served as secretary. No calendars were printed until 1898, informal meetings having been held previous to that time. The membership of the club is limited to 20. The present officers are as follows: Mrs. B. H. Griffith, president; Mrs. G. W. Struckman and Mrs. C. H. Howick, vice-presidents; Mrs. W. E. Tou Velle, secretary; and Mrs. J. O. Schuyler, treasurer.

The Shakespere Club was organized in 1894 and was federated in 1900. The following were members in 1894: Elizabeth Cook, Grace Riley, Elizabeth Crockett, Kate Crockett, Ella Raudabaugh and Zora L. Smith. The club is limited to 20 members. The officers at the present time are: Myrtle Leiser, president; Jessie Snyder, vice-president; Nellie Winter, secretary; and Effie Fanger, treasurer.

The Altrurian Club was organized in 1899, the first officers elected being Martha E. Scranton, president; Alice Brownlie, vice-president; Jessie Raudabaugh, secretary; and Sue Raudabaugh, treasurer. The club was federated in 1902. It has a present membership of 23 active members and six honorary members. The regular meetings are held on Thursday of each week. The present officers are: Ida Stubbs, president; Ella Leiser, vice-president; Minnie Bretz, secretary; Tabitha Nichols, treasurer; and Alverda Shipp, corresponding secretary.

CHAPTER IV

CENTER, UNION, DUBLIN AND BLACK CREEK TOWNSHIPS

CENTER TOWNSHIP

Was organized June 2, 1834, and by order of the County Commissioners the first election was held at the house of William Bonafield, June 21, 1834. This township extends north to the Union township line, east to the Auglaize County line, south to the Jefferson township line and west to the Hopewell township line. The surface is generally level, although rolling enough to drain very nicely; tile drains are used wherever any kind of ditching is found necessary. The land of Center township has a rich soil, and all kinds of grain are raised in abundance, but corn is "king." The farms of the township are highly cultivated and well improved. The timber lands are nearly all cleared, leaving only scattered groves which serve as wind-breaks in time of storm and protect man and beast from the scorching rays of the meridian sun. The township contains 19,188 acres of land, valued at from $75 to $100 per acre. The population in 1880 was 1,456; in 1900 it was 1,493. The township has some of the best residences in the county. It has also good schools and churches, and as a whole the people are a church-going people, lovers of education and religion, the population being almost exclusively of English descent. The present officers of the township are as follows: Trustees—Jesse Willcutt, C. F. Kruger and C. F. Lutz; clerk, J. H. Murlin; treasurer, George D. Lewis; justices of the peace—D. W. Hawkins and G. W. Bogart.

NEPTUNE,

The seat of the township, has a history extending over nearly 70 years. Its founder, William Bonafield, was one of the pioneers of Mercer County, coming into the county as early as 1823 or 1824, and settling first in Dublin township, near the village of Mercer. About 1827 or 1828 he entered land in Center

township where Neptune is now located and moved there with his family. He was the first settler within three miles of the site of the present town except a man by the name of Crawford, who lived half a mile east of Mr. Bonafield. On December 2, 1837, he laid out a town, which he called Neptune. Shortly after he settled here, he engaged in the hotel business, keeping what was called a travelers' home for the accommodation of the extensive travel on the old Fort Wayne road. He was a carpenter by trade and followed this in connection with farming and hotel-keeping throughout life. He died January 1, 1841. About 1838 Benjamin Nichols came to Center township from Pennsylvania and stopped with Mr. Bonafield at Neptune for several years and after the death of Mr. Bonafield took charge of the hotel and store and conducted the business for many years. Jason and Atwater Hall and their families settled in Neptune in 1839. Soon after came "Doc." Keyser, who spent a long life in the town. Henry Lakamp moved to the town in 1865 and opened up a large country store, which he conducted for many years. The fact that the old plank road from St. Marys to Fort Wayne, Indiana, ran through the town made Neptune quite a good trading point in its early history, but this has all passed away and we find the old town to-day with not as much business as it had many years ago. Owing to its favorable location in the township, it formerly had a postoffice but now it has none; Uncle Sam through his rural mail carriers makes Celina the distributing point for Neptune and the people have their daily mail delivered at their doors—no more hack or horseback mail for Neptune. The Center township High School is located at Neptune and is considered one of the best in the county. The town also has a number of churches. The present population is about 150.

PIONEERS.

The pioneers of Center township came from all sections of the country. Some did not take up permanent homes or remain long in this district. In mentioning the pioneers, we are able to refer only to a few of those who lived here for an extended period.

Michael Harner was one of the earliest pioneers of the county; he was born in Maryland, January 18, 1794, fought in the War of 1812 and came to Mercer County in 1819, locating in Dublin township, half a mile south of where the village of Mercer now stands. In 1820 he moved into Center township and settled on 160 acres of land, where he passed the remainder of his days. William Bonafield was also one of the earliest settlers of Center township, as were other early residents of Neptune mentioned previously. Wesley Copeland located here as early as 1834. In 1835 the Spicer family moved to Center township, Mercer County, from Miami County, Ohio, being

among the first settlers in the township. Samuel Davis came to Mercer County in 1834 and at first located in Union township, afterwards moving into Center, where he passed the remainder of his days. William Cain and C. L. S. Shanklin, natives of Virginia, also came to this township in 1837. Stephen Howick, who came from England to America in 1831 and landed at Quebec, proceeded thence to Buffalo and thence to Lancaster, Ohio, where he was engaged in brick-making until 1835; in that year he removed to St. Marys, where he remained until 1837, when he moved upon an 80-acre tract of land in Center township, where he made his home until within a few years of his death, which occurred at the home of his son David in Celina. Mr. Howick lived to see the forest cleared away and beautiful farms with elegant homes surround him where once was the habitation of the wolf, wild deer and turkey, which "Uncle" Stephen delighted to hunt when he first came to the county.

The Hankins family were early pioneers in this and adjoining townships. Rev. Timothy Hankins came to Mercer County in 1837 from Coshocton County, Ohio, and settled in Liberty township on the northeast quarter of section 7. His cabin was the third built in the township. There were then no roads in the township except as they were made by the axe wherever the pioneers wished to go. There was a trace leading from Fort Recovery to Willshire through Liberty township on the section line and one mile east of the Indiana line and another trace, crossing that from east to west, where the settlement known as Skeel's Cross Roads is now. In 1837 John Bolton and William Watkins settled adjoining him, and in 1838 Philip Deitsch and Adam Bollenbacher. In 1838 Mr. Hankins moved to Center township. He taught the first district school that was ever taught in the township, which was held in James Thompson's old kitchen. He was at the place now called Celina before there was a house in sight of it, and had the honor of sitting on the first jury. Mr. Hankins assisted in building the first church that was built in the county, which was the old Bethel Church on Eight-Mile Creek in Union township. Rev. James Drury and his wife came from Kentucky in 1838 and located in Center township, where they passed the rest of their days. He was one of the first Baptist ministers in the county.

In 1839 Jesse Keyser came to the township of Center and located on a farm of 160 acres, which he cleared and upon which he lived until a few years ago. In 1840 Amos Stanberry and his son Stanley moved to Center township. In the same year Enos Hays settled on a tract of land in section 16, Center township, where he lived until 1868, when he sold his farm and moved to Carroll County, Missouri. In the spring of 1841 Luther Newcomb came to Center township, Mercer County, erected a cabin, cleared a small plat and planted it in potatoes on land that his father had entered in 1837. The family consisted of three boys—Miletus M., Joseph B. and Miloann; these boys grew

to manhood here and helped to make the farms that their children enjoy to-day. James Malick came to the county in 1847 from Clinton County, Ohio. In the same year Zophar Williams and wife migrated to Mercer County and located in Center township, where Mr. Williams lived until his death.

The following settled in Center township later than 1850.—Henry J. McKirnan has been a resident of Center township since 1851 and has contributed largely to the development of the township. In early life he learned to bear the burdens cast upon him, being left at the age of 15 years with the responsibility of caring for the family and looking after the farm; with heroic courage, energy and industry he cleared the farm and made a beautiful home for himself and sisters and widowed mother. Smith and Moses Townsend came to the county, about 1852, from Columbiana County, Ohio, and settled in Center township. Both helped to clear farms and build houses and lived to see the county cleared up from an almost unbroken wilderness to fine, well-cultivated farms. Lyman Dibble came to the county in 1846 and settled in Jefferson township; in 1853 he moved to Center township and located on a farm which is now owned by his son, Charles F. Dibble, who lives on the place. Frederick Lutz, born in Germany, emigrated to America in 1853, came to Mercer County in 1854, and settled on a farm of 120 acres of land in section 22, Center township, where he passed the remainder of his days; Charles F. Lutz, his only son, now lives on the farm and is one of the leading farmers of Center township. In 1854 Abraham Fast came to Mercer County from Fairfield County, Ohio, and settled on a farm in Center township. Casper Schnarre, a Prussian soldier, came to Center township in 1856.

Another pioneer of Center township who passed away not many years since was George W. Raudabaugh, a native of Hocking County, Ohio. Mr. Raudabaugh first came to Mercer County in 1842, but spent the winter of 1842-43 in Champaign County, Ohio; in the spring of 1843 he moved to Hopewell township, Mercer County, where he engaged in farming from 1843 to 1864, filling the offices of justice of the peace, county auditor and county treasurer. In 1864 he moved upon a farm in Center township and in 1876 was elected to the Ohio Legislature. John M. Wright, a pioneer of this county, came from Clinton County, Ohio, in 1830, with his parents, Abel and Mary Wright, who located on land in Union township on Eight-Mile Creek where the Bethel Church now stands. In 1878 Mr. Wright moved to Center township.

CHURCHES.

There are two Methodist Episcopal churches in Center township—Center Chapel and Copps' Chapel—both of which belong to the Celina circuit and are in charge of Rev. C. M. Baker, who resides at Celina. The history of Center

Chapel dates back to 1843, when Rev. David Gray, at the residence of Enos Hays, organized a class of 10 members, viz.: Enos Hays and wife, Alanson Hays and wife, Rhoda Newcomb, Luther Newcomb and wife, Charles Smart and wife and Daniel Martin. Enos Hays acted as class leader and steward. The present church building was erected at a cost of about $1,800, being dedicated in April, 1875, by Rev. James F. Mounts. The present value of the church property is $3,000. The present membership is 115, with an average attendance at Sunday-school of 70.—Copps' Chapel was organized in 1851 at Jacob Copps' residence by Rev. Wilcox, with seven members, namely: Jacob Copps and wife, Gilbert Sinift and wife, Mrs. Ezekiel Hitchens, Mrs. Horace Loomis and Mrs. Cain. Jacob Copps was class leader and steward. The present church is a frame building, 46 by 32 feet in dimensions, erected at a cost of about $1,800 in 1873, being dedicated in July of that year by Rev. Wilcox. The present estimated value of the church property is $1,500. The church has a membership of 50. The Sunday-school has an average attendance of 45.

Center township has three societies of the Church of God, viz.: Beery Bethel, Fairview and Neptune, all of which are served by Rev. H. B. Croft. The Church of God at Beery Bethel was organized by Elder Cump in 1853, with 10 members, namely: Christian Beery and wife, Benjamin Beery and wife, Daniel Beougher and wife, Jesse Gile and wife and Joseph Good and wife. Jesse Gile was the first elder and Benjamin Beery, the first deacon. A frame church building was erected in 1860 at a cost of about $600.—The Church of God at Fairview was organized at the home of Jesse Keyser in 1866 by Elder Small with some 12 or 15 members. A frame church building was erected in 1867 at a cost of about $800.—The Church of God at Neptune was organized in 1869 by Elder Warner with 43 members. They built a frame church in 1878 at a cost of about $1,000. When the society was organized, A. J. Fast was elected elder and Edward Kelly, deacon.

The Mount Zion United Brethren Church in Center township was organized in September, 1850, by Rev. James Lay in the schoolhouse on Twelve-Mile Creek. The original class consisted of eight members, namely: Mr. and Mrs. Michael Harner, Mr. and Mrs. James Harner, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Bolton and Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Rider. This class and the Old-town United Brethren class in Jefferson township have been served by the same ministers. The present pastor is Rev. J. P. Hight, who is also pastor of the Old-town and the Montezuma United Brethren churches. The church is in a flourishing condition.

The Mount Gilead Baptist Church was organized in 1843 on Eight-Mile Creek, one and a half miles north of Neptune, with 10 constituent members. Michael Craft and wife were baptized into the fellowship of the church soon

after the organization. The first meeting-house, a hewed-log structure, was built in 1845 on the Mendon road, two and a half miles from Neptune, on land then belonging to Rebecca Moore. The present house of worship is a frame building in Neptune, erected in 1860, which with lot is worth about $1,000. The present church membership is 60. The pastors have been: Revs. James Drury, H. Gordon (ordained in 1849), G. N. Drury, J. Jackson, J. H. Manning (ordained in 1870), G. C. Graham, E. S. Griggs, V. D. Willard, H. F. Perry, W. H. Gallant, L. E. Baker, D. B. Reckard, A. W. Yale and J. C. Kazee, the present pastor.

UNION TOWNSHIP

Occupies the northeast corner of Mercer County, being bounded on the north by Van Wert County, on the east by Auglaize and Van Wert counties, on the south by Center township, and on the west by Dublin township. It comprises an area of 36 square miles. The principal stream of the township, flowing from east to west, is the St. Marys River, into which Eight-Mile Creek and Twelve-Mile Creek empty, thus affording good drainage for the land. The surface of the township is on the whole level, except along and near the watercourses, where it is rolling and somewhat broken. The soil is fertile and very productive. The population of the township in 1880 was 1,820; in 1890, 2,001; and in 1900, 2,238.

ORGANIZATION.

Originally Union township, together with the rest of the northern part of the county, was included in Dublin township. In 1828 it was set off from Dublin township, at which time it also included Center township, which became a separate organization six years later. The first election in Union township was held in the schoolhouse on Justin Hamilton's land on December 20, 1828, nearly four-score years ago, at which time the following officers were elected: Trustees—Benjamin Roebuck, Andrew Coil, Jr., and Peter Coil; clerk, Justin Hamilton; treasurer, George Wilson; trustees of school lands—Samuel Hanson, Peter Coil and Justin Hamilton; treasurer of school lands, Michael Harner; constable, Samuel Hanson; overseers of the poor—John Van Gundy and Thomas Parrott; fence viewers—Peter Coil and Justin Hamilton. The present officers are: Trustees—Warren Barber, Ira T. Wollam and William M. Shelley; clerk, J. A. Murlin; treasurer, J. W. Hesser; justice of the peace, Milton O. Krugh.

Mendon has a handsome Town Hall, which was erected jointly by the village and township in 1904 at a cost of $12,000. It is a two-story red brick structure, trimmed with light-colored brick.

PIONEERS.

It is now more than four-score years since the first permanent settlers came to this township, which was then a wild and unbroken wilderness with no roads, schoolhouses nor churches and without a white man or woman living within a day's journey. The year 1822 marks the year of settlement. It was early in this year that Andrew Coil and his family, including his son-in-law, Thomas Parrott, came to Union township and reared for themselves a cabin on the banks of Twelve-Mile Creek. The corn and vegetables that they raised this year on their land was the first crop produced in Union township. The next year Mr. Coil laid out a town which he named Coiltown, which competed with St. Marys and Shanesville for the seat of justice in 1824. Samuel Duncan also settled in Union township in 1822. He had settled in the county as early as 1818, taking up his residence in that year on Shane's Prairie in Dublin township. James Green also settled in the township in 1822, but remained only a year or two. In 1823 Michael Harner came into the township from Dublin township where he had located as early as 1819. John Van Gundy also came here in 1823, locating on a farm on which he spent the remainder of his life.

In 1823 Samuel Harrison, John Heath and Justin Hamilton came into the township. Mr. Hamilton, who was a native of the State of New York and a pioneer of Kentucky, at once became prominent in the affairs of the northern section of Mercer County. He was elected justice of the peace for Dublin township in 1825 and, being re-elected in 1828, he became the first justice of the peace of Union township. He also held the offices of county assessor and surveyor, while Allen and Van Wert counties were attached to Mercer. He served several terms in the Ohio Legislature and afterwards served as an associate judge of the court of common pleas. He resided upon his farm in section 28 for 40 years, dying there in 1863 when in his 67th year. In 1824 Jacob Van Gundy and Achilles Irvin became residents of the township; in 1827, George Wilson and Peter Coil (2nd); and in 1828, Joseph Rider and Asahel Forbes. Soon after Justin Hamilton located here, he was joined by his brother William, who left his home in Ontario County, New York, in 1825, and walked to Buffalo, took a schooner for Sandusky Bay (city) and then walked to this township. Justin and William Hamilton moulded and burned the first brick made in Union township.

Samuel C. Barber and family and his wife's brother, Abraham D. Murlin, came from Kentucky in November, 1828. The same year Aaron Abbey became a resident of the township but later returned to New York. In 1829 Michael Miller and his sister Elizabeth, two orphans, were brought to the township by their brother-in-law, George Wilson, who had located here two years before; Michael, when he grew up, settled permanently in the township

and lived here all his life, becoming a wealthy man. At his death, a few years ago, he left each of his children a valuable farm besides other property. He was respected as an honest man by all who knew him. Abel Wright and family located on the northwest quarter of section 35 in 1829. The following settled in the township in 1830: Isaac Coil, James Coil, Jacob Fultze and George Parrott. Eli Forbes joined his brother, Asahel Forbes, in 1831, but remained only a few years, moving then to Illinois. Joseph Sidenbender came into the township in 1831.

George M. Shepherd, Amos M. Barber and Richard Palmer all became residents of the township in 1832. The last-named owned many hundreds of acres of land at his death. In that and in the following year William Cook, James Wright, James Smith, John D. Hundley, Henry and Samuel Parrott, Leonard Miller, George Rupert, John W. Brown, John N. Brown, Edward Upton, James T. Heath and Alfred Bigelow came into the township.

The arrivals in 1834 were: Samuel Davis, Benjamin Nolan, Abraham Abbey, James Watts, William McMichael and Daniel Murlin. Soon after this Thomas Upton became a resident of the township. In 1835 came John Tomlinson, John Ross, Wesley A. Parrott and his father, John Parrott, John E. Dutton and Resin P. Webb. In 1836 came John Edge. Early the same year came Jacob Panabaker, who located at Mendon (then known as Guilford), and built a saw and grist-mill on the St. Mary's River. Adam Panabaker came also the same year, as well as Asa Presho, Elhanan Porter, Job Harmon, Nathan Perry, Eleazer S. Wright and Robert Mortimore, who was a wheelwright by trade and devoted considerable time to making chairs, spinning wheels and reels for the early settlers.

The year 1837 brought quite a number of new settlers, among whom were Christian and John Gist, Jacob Peterman, Samuel Ross, Christian Wertz, William Murlin, Samuel Shepherd, David P. Protzman, Daniel Arnold, John Hines, Michael Deniston and Isaac Lamunyon. In 1838 John B. Hickernell, Jacob Sherer, James Anderson, John Price, Robert Platt and John Protzman came into the township; in 1839, William Hussey, Everett Sinclair and John M. Toland; in 1840, Jacob Krugh, George Fireoved and Robert H. Dunathan. The Severns came into the township at an early date and improved large tracts of land. Their children are respected citizens of the township to-day.

These are not all of the pioneers that came to the township in the years prior to 1840. There were still others but to recall all of the names would make a large volume. The sacrifices that these pioneers made in order to leave a heritage to their loved ones will be told by their children and their children's children for many years to come. The influence for good that was exerted by these hardy sons of toil will last for all time.

SCHOOLS.

The people of Union township, from the earliest settlement, have manifested great interest in educational affairs. In 1827 a log school house was erected on the land of Justin Hamilton by the voluntary labor of the settlers. The first term of school, held in the winter of 1827-28, was taught in this building by Mr. Hamilton, who received $10 per month and boarded himself. Even then, he had to trade out his wages, money being very scarce. Henry Hoagland followed Mr. Hamilton at the same wages, but did not board himself, the custom of "boarding around" among the patrons of the school being adopted. Two other school buildings were erected in the early years of the settlement by volunteer labor and contributions. The schools were supported by subscriptions until a tax was levied for the maintenance of the common schools of the township, the earliest record of such tax levy being in 1838. From year to year the schools made regular advances and kept pace with the development of the county, and to-day we find the district schools accommodated with good and commodious brick structures and officered by efficient teachers, who are paid a fair salary for their services. The Mendon High School is maintained nine months each year, and all the district schools in the township not less than six months each year.

CHURCHES.

The Mendon and Wesley Methodist Episcopal churches in Union township, and the Tomlinson Methodist Episcopal Church in Van Wert County, are in one charge, which has been served by the following pastors since 1879, namely: Revs. Lemuel Herbert, John T. Bower, Rudolph R. Bryan, C. S. Barron, Josiah F. Crooks, W. R. Seuman, Philip Lemasters, W. R. Shults, R. E. Woodruff, F. S. Robinson, T. A. Zimmerman, M. M. Markwith, D. G. Strong, C. B. Cramer, Lemuel Rich and H. J. Keister, who became pastor in 1906. The total membership of the three churches is 316. The three church buildings are valued at $11,000. The parsonage, located at Mendon, is valued at $1,800. The charge has three Sunday-schools, in which there are 50 officers and teachers and 360 scholars, the average attendance being 215.

There are three societies of the Church of God in Union township, namely: Mendon, Union and Anderson, which are served by Rev. O. O. Tracy.

Union township has two Baptist churches—Pleasant Grove and Mendon. The Pleasant Grove Baptist Church was organized November 22, 1871, with four constituent members, to whom were added two more immediately after the organization. They were received into the Auglaize Baptist Association at its annual meeting held at Van Wert in 1872. It was

called the Mendon Church until 1879, when the present building site four miles northeast of Mendon, on the Spencerville road, was purchased, and the name was changed to Pleasant Grove. A meeting-house, costing $1,200, was completed thereon in 1881. The present value of the church property is estimated at $2,000. The present membership is 49. The following have served as pastors: Revs. J. H. Manning, G. C. Graham, W. H. Gallant, J. F. Smith, William Price and B. F. Tucker.—The Mendon Baptist Church was organized in 1883, with six members. On May 6, 1884, it was recognizel by a council of 10 churches of the Auglaize Baptist Association as a regular Baptist Church. The church had 13 members at the time of recognition. About this time a fine corner lot was purchased, which in 1893 was leased for oil, from which the church realized about $200. During the summer of 1899, several hundred dollars were subscribed and the basement of a house of worship was constructed, but for want of sufficient funds in sight nothing more has been done to the house. The church has been able to maintain preaching only at irregular intervals by using the house of another denomination. The church has a present membership of seven. The estimated value of the church property is $1,000. The following have served the church as ministers: Revs. V. D. Willard, J. H. Manning, R. L. Ingram, B. F. Tucker, H. F. Perry, D. D. Spencer, A. W. Yale, J. F. C. Sherich, L. S. Colborn, H. J. Julian and J. C. Kazee, the present pastor.

AGRICULTURE.

The township is purely an agricultural one, and great crops of corn, wheat, oats and rye are raised. The orchards of this township can not be excelled in the county. Good gravel roads are found all over the township. Union township claims the credit for originating, and maintaining for a number of years, the society known as the Mercer County Pioneer Association, which held its meetings for a number of years at Mendon; they are now held in August of each year at Celina, where the stories of the past are told and forecasts of the future made.

MENDON.

In 1834 Justin Hamilton and Thomas Parrott laid out the town of Guilford in the southeast quarter of section 21, on the south bank of the St. Mary's River. The plat and description were acknowledged for record on May 29, 1834, and recorded on June 2nd. The proprietors soon after changed the name to Mendon. For years, the chief features of the town were a schoolhouse, a horse-mill and a store.

The log schoolhouse gave place in time to a frame building and this in

turn to the present two-story, eight-room, brick building of modern design and up-to-date equipment, which was erected in 1888. R. E. Offenhauer is superintendent of the village district schools and Milton O. Krugh is principal of the High School, in which there are two teachers and 41 pupils. Mr. Krugh has held this position since 1897. The High School, which is supported jointly by the township and village, ranks as second grade. P. W. Fishbaugh, A. W. Copeland, B. T. Price, J. B. Maurer and J. W. Hesser constitute the Board of Education of the village school district.

The horse-mill yielded to a mill run by water power, which finally was succeeded by the steam grist-mill of to-day.

The greater part of the changes that have resulted in the upbuilding of the town and the infusing of new life into its commercial activities, date from the building of the railroad, which is now a branch of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railway, through the town. The new railroad brought trade, particularly by bringing facilities for the shipping of grain and other products of the farm and field.

Mendon is the only village in the township and has its share of all kinds of business, including one bank, one hotel, a large undertaking business, two or three dry goods houses, groceries and meat markets, a grain elevator, two implement and vehicle stores, steam grist-mill and newspaper. The town also has churches to suit all kindly disposed people, a number of fraternal societies, two physicians (Dr. P. W. Fishbaugh and Dr. J. W. Ridenour), and one dentist. The Mendon Bank was organized in February, 1902, by the Voke Brothers, L. F. and Edward, as a private bank with capital stock of $10,000. The officers of the institution are as follows: L. F. Voke (of Columbus, Ohio), president; Edward Voke (of Mendon), cashier; and Miss Maggie Norris, assistant cashier. The bank has deposits amounting to $85,000. The bank building was erected in 1901. Hussey & Barber conduct a general store; George Bauter, a drug-store; Frank Disher operates the steam grist-mill; Gordon, Hauss & Folk are the proprietors of the grain elevator and also deal in agricultural implements, wagons and buggies, a line of business in which William Hankins is also engaged; W. M. Miller has a well-established undertaking business and also deals in furniture. The Mendon *Herald,* a weekly newspaper, independent in politics, was established in 1895. Frank Geiger is proprietor and editor. The following are the fraternal societies: Mendon Lodge No. 586, F. & A. M. (chartered in 1902); Lodge No. 750, I. O. O. F. —also a Rebekah lodge; Mendon Lodge No. 416, K. of P.; Mendon Tent, No. 214, K. O. T. M.; and McKendree-Murlin Post, No. 319, G. A. R., was organized with about 23 members some time in 1880. Among the first members were George Custer, John A. Murlin, James H. Moore, William Lemunyon, Orange Leymond, Wesley Presho, John Bevan, Henry A. W.

Collins, Cyrus B. Collins, David Ayers, Elijah Patterson, Valentine Moses, William Johnson, Van Myers, Labin P. Hays, John Ash and Milton Hussey. The records of the post were destroyed in the disastrous fire that recently visited Mendon, so accurate information cannot be obtained. The post has now 19 members in good standing. The officers are: James Shanklin, commander; Christ. Kinkley, senior vice commander; Daniel Vesper, junior vice commander; George Custer, quartermaster; W. W. Parrott, officer of the day; John Boroff, officer of the guard; Philip Hankins, chaplain; Samuel C. Duff, sergeant major; and James H. Moore, adjutant.

Mendon was incorporated as a village in 1881. The village's first officers were: Mayor, L. A. Barber; clerk, J. H. Moore; treasurer, William Hamilton; marshal, William Rider; councilmen—A. J. Lininger, F. S. Collins, J. W. Murlin, John Bevan and Joseph Hesser. The present village officers are as follows: Mayor, Milton O. Krugh; clerk, C. W. Rish; treasurer, P. W. Fishbaugh; marshal, L. Duffey; councilmen—V. T. Siberts, Zed. Watts, Ed. Protzman, Harry Barber and Frank Small. E. E. Hussey is postmaster. The population of the village in 1880 was 342; in 1890, 400; and in 1900, 599—showing a steady growth.

In the last year Mendon has suffered from two very destructive conflagrations. In February, 1906, the west side of Main street was visited by a fire that destroyed some of the best business structures in town. The loss was nearly total. Again, on January 12, 1907, the business portion of the town on the east side of Main street, opposite the burned district of last year, was destroyed by fire, few business houses being left on that side of the street.

DUBLIN TOWNSHIP

Was organized June 7, 1824, at which time it included all the northern part of the county. Other townships were struck off and organized in the succeeding years until Dublin was reduced to the size of a congressional township as it is to-day, containing 36 square miles. It is bounded on the north by Van Wert County, on the east by Union township, on the south by Hopewell township and on the west by Black Creek township. The St. Mary's River flows across the township by a winding course from the eastern side to the northwest corner. The soil is fertile and well adapted to the raising of all kinds of grain, the crop most cultivated being corn, although wheat and oats receive their share of attention. Fruit is grown in abundance. Livestock is raised on an extensive scale by the farmers of the township, who take pride in their cattle and horses, while the breeding of hogs and sheep is not neglected.

The records showing who were elected township officers for the first 12

or 15 years in the township's history have wholly disappeared and the first record that is extant is of the spring election of 1839, when the following officers were chosen: Trustees—Philip S. Hitchner, Asa J. Petro and Horatio G. Blossom; clerk, A. R. Hunter; and treasurer, David Hays. At the election of April 6, 1840, the following were elected: Trustees—Philip S. Hitchner, Horatio G. Blossom and Abraham Miller; clerk, G. S. Barks; treasurer, David Hays; and justice of the peace, Asa J. Petro. The present officers are: Trustees—J. C. Chivington, Albert Miller and W. B. Tingley; clerk, D. C. Kinder; treasurer, William Christian; justices of the peace—Cornelius Smith and G. M. Counterman. The population of the township in 1880 was 2,027; in 1890, 2,625; and in 1900, 2,751.

RAILROADS.

The township has two railroads. The Cincinnati Northern, which has for its southern terminus, Cincinnati and for its northern, Jackson, Michigan, passes through Rockford, which is the market for the entire northern part of the county and the only town of any importance in the township. A branch of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railway passes through Mercer, a settlement in the southeastern corner of the township. This section of the county is, therefore, afforded good shipping facilities. The first railroad built in the township was the old Toledo, Delphos & Burlington Railroad, a narrow-gauge line, from Delphos to Rockford by the way of Mercer, with the main line running from Delphos to Dayton, via Celina. In a few years, however, the branch from Mercer to Rockford was abandoned. The main line at a later date was absorbed by the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railway and became a standard-gauge road.

INDIAN RESERVES.

During the War of 1812, before this section had been opened for settlement by the whites and, indeed, before the formation of the county, there was an Indian village on the St. Mary's River in this township known as Old-town, which was near where the present village of Rockford is now located. Among the Indians having lodges here were: Anthony Shane, Louis Godfrey, the Crescent, Labadie and Rushville. These Indians were always friendly and rendered every possible service to the government. Grants of land near the present village of Rockford were made to several of these Indians. Among these was a grant of one section of land on the banks of the St. Mary's River, at Shane's Crossing (now Rockford) to Anthony Shane; six sections of land on the north side of the St. Mary's River, above the reservation of Shane, to Louis Godfrey; one section on the north side of

the St. Mary's River, and below the section granted to the Crescent, to the chief, Charlie; one section on the St. Mary's, below the section granted to Charlie, to Peter Labadie; and to Alexander T. Godfrey and Richard Godfrey, adopted children of the Pottawatomie tribe, one section of the tract ceded to the United States by the Pottawatomies, Ottawas and Chippewas. At the special request of the two Godfreys, they were given the right to choose and locate said section of land within said tract after a survey should be made; they finally located it within the present limits of Dublin township. These lands have all since passed into the hands of the whites either by gift or purchase. L. G. Roebuck was given a tract of land by Godfrey on account of his being a namesake. The remainder of the Godfrey grant was purchased by William B. Hedges, one of the earliest permanent settlers of this section, who at a very early period clerked for a French trader named Anthony Madore, who had established a trading post at Shane's Crossing, which was the first store of any kind in the township. When the first settlers came, they found Anthony Shane on his reservation, occupying a double log house on the north side of the river, a short distance from the present site of Rockford. Louis Godfrey lived at this time on the north bank of the St. Mary's River in the Indian village Old-town, located about a mile and a half up the river from Shane's Crossing. Other Indians, also, at this time occupied lodges upon the reservations in the township.

PIONEERS.

The first white settlement was made in 1819 immediately after the cession of lands by the Indians under the treaty of St. Marys. Among the first settlers who came in during the years of 1819 and 1820 were: William B. and John P. Hedges, John, Ruel and Benjamin Roebuck, Dr. Lilley, Samuel Lilley, Jonathan Antonides, Anson Goddard and sons, Michael Harner, Samuel Harrison, William and Jacob Baker, John Van Gundy, John Sutton, John Chivington, Henry Bevington, Peter Edsall, Calvin Denison, Joseph Greer and Samuel and Isaiah Duncan. They found, upon their arrival, Madore, the French trader, trading with the Indians and ready to trade with the settlers. William B. Hedges became a clerk in this trading post, for which the goods were obtained at Piqua, being transported by wagon to St. Marys and thence by water to their destination. Madore was succeeded by Mr. Hedges and he by John T. Greaves, whose daughter he later married. John P. Hedges married the daughter of an Indian chief and settled at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

In the years 1821 and 1822 David Hays, Joseph Henkle, Timothy Green and Col. A. R. Hunter moved here and settled on or near Shane's Prairie, a level tract of land about six miles in extent east and west and four

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ROCKFORD

PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, ROCKFORD

TOWN HALL, ROCKFORD

UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH, ROCKFORD

miles north and south, along the St. Mary's River, within the present limits of Dublin township. Isaac Coil, John and Jesse McChristy, John K. Evans, Eli Compton and son Elihu, Philip S. Hitchner, and Messrs. Brewster, Trellis and Updyke were among the first to enter land on Shane's Prairie. William Frysinger, who was born in Virginia in 1798, settled in Dublin township in 1827 with his wife and six children. He was the second man to settle north of the river. Joseph Baltzell took up his residence in the township in 1828. Robert Wiley came here in 1835 and lived here until his death in 1862; he was twice elected sheriff. Other early settlers of the township were: William Clark and his son, Smith H. Clark; David Work, John Lilley, Joel Wood, John W. Stoker, William Bonafield (who afterward moved to Center township and founded Neptune), Resin P. Webb (who later became a resident of Union township), Samuel Schlater, C. B. Whitley, John H. Dysert, Jeremiah Shingledecker, John Shellabarger, Peter Dull, G. C. Koeppel and the Schumms and the Putmans. The Sidenbender family came in at an early day and grew up with the township. The Smith family, now prominently represented at Rockford in the persons of Cornelius and H. K. Smith, has long been established in Dublin township. The Van Tilburg and Robinson families are also connected with the early history of the township. Of the first settlers it may be said that for the most part they came from Ross, Warren and Athens counties, Ohio, and from Kentucky. Many of them were, however, natives of New York and other Eastern States.

It is thought that the first marriage of residents of Dublin township was that of James Duncan and Sarah Roebuck, who walked all the way to Wapakoneta to be married by the missionary of the Society of Friends, Isaac Harvey, as there were no ministers in the township. The journey home was also made on foot. The first term of court held in the county was convened at Shanesville (Rockford) by Judge Nathaniel Low. The first flour mill erected on the St. Mary's River, within the bounds of Dublin township, was built by John Rhodes. John W. Stoker was one of the early mail carriers between Piqua and Fort Wayne, and often made the journey on foot, carrying the mail on his back.

CHURCHES.

Dublin township has two Methodist Episcopal churches, namely: Rockford and Mercer, both of which belong to the same charge, which has been served by the following pastors since 1879, namely: Revs. W. R. Shults, James F. Mounts, M. M. Markwith, C. B. Hickernell, William Dunlap, Jesse Carr, William Hook, J. D. Simons, Jefferson Williams, M. M. Markwith, G. H. Priddy and W. W. Curl, pastor since 1903, who resides in the parsonage at Rockford, which is valued at $1,200. The membership of the two churches

totals 319. There are 300 scholars and 40 officers and teachers in the two Sunday-schools, with an average attendance of 250. The Methodist Episcopal Church at Rockford was organized many years ago. The church has a splendid brick structure. The church at Mercer was built not a great many years ago and is a very nice, modern, brick building, whose erection was mainly due to that eminent Christian man, Jacob Counterman, who was a stanch supporter of Methodism.

The Presbyterian Church at Rockford was organized March 3, 1856, with nine charter members, by Rev. Thomas Elcock, one of the pioneer home missionaries of the Presbyterian Church in Northwestern Ohio. The congregation worshiped in the Methodist Church for many years until the fall of 1877, when a brick church building was erected at a cost of $3,000, being dedicated in the spring of 1878. In July, 1905, this building underwent a complete remodeling at a cost of $5,000. As a result of this, the congregation now worship in a modern church home and enjoy all comforts and conveniences requisite for most advanced church work. As the property now stands it is worth at least $8,000. The church has a present membership of 160, with a Sabbath-school enrollment of 130. The following have served as pastors of the church: Revs. Thomas Elcock, 1856-82; J. M. Anderson, 1882-85; J. S. Axtell, 1886-91; G. A. Wilber, 1894-98; Marshall Herrington, 1899-1905; and Richard Spetnagel, the present pastor, who has served since 1905.

The String-town United Brethren Church was organized in August, 1841, at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Eichar, 12 members constituting the original class. Thomas Shell was the first leader. Rev. Abraham Shingledecker was the first pastor. A log building was erected for church purposes about 1850. This was succeeded by a more pretentious and comfortable church edifice, built at a cost of $1,600 in 1869.

Otterbein United Brethren Church, belonging to the branch called "Radical," has a membership of 80 and an average Sunday-school attendance of 50. The brick church building owned by this class was erected at a cost of $2,000 subsequent to 1892. Rev. J. L. Culbertson is pastor of this church, as well as of the Union United Brethren Church in Hopewell township. Mr. Culbertson was preceded by Revs. James Sherer, A. J. Stemen, Thomas Harvey and C. S. Johnson.

The United Brethren Church at Rockford was organized December 1, 1896, by Rev. Thomas Coats with 30 members. The church has grown and prospered and at the present time has a membership of 90, while the Sunday-school has 95 members. The church building, erected a few years ago, is a modern structure, built of veneered brick at a cost of $4,000. The following have served as pastors for this church: Revs. Thomas Coats, one year; J.

F. Miller, one year; E. M. Burrows, three years; Charles Alexander, one year; J. P. Hight, two years; and E. G. Stover, the present pastor, who has been in charge for the past two years.

The Church of God at Oak Grove is in charge of Rev. E. Turner.

The Mercer Baptist Church was first organized in 1845, but later became extinct. During this period the church was served by Revs. J. G. Van Valkenburg, Henry Gordon and J. Jackson. The present organization was effected in 1875, in which year a meeting-house was built. The church has a present membership of 68. The church property is worth about $2,000. The following pastors have served the church from the reorganization to the present time: Revs. G. C. Graham, W. H. Gallant, J. H. Manning, H. F. Perry, B. F. Tucker, V. D. Willard, G. B. Jackson, J. F. Smith, A. W. Yale, J. F. C. Sherich and J. C. Kazee, the present pastor.

The Friends' Church at Rockford was organized in 1906, being the result of a tent meeting held at Rockford in July by Rev. A. J. Furstenberger and others. The frame church building erected at a cost of about $1,500, was dedicated on Sunday, December 16, 1906, Rev. Allen Jay, of Richmond, Indiana, preaching the dedication sermon. The society has a present membership of about 70, and an average Sunday-school attendance of about 60. Rev. A. J. Furstenberger is pastor.

SCHOOLS.

The schools are the outgrowth of the old subscription system, which was the only one at command in the early days. It was not so complete, not so rounded, nor so intellectual as the system of to-day; yet if force did predominate in rude huts, we know it was because it was impossible for culture to predominate in costly buildings. So down the years the schools have moved along from subscription to State patronage, until to-day they are the creatures and care of the State. Joseph Green taught the first term of school in District No. 2, and was paid by subscription. Lovinski Circassian Ninham, an Indian, who was educated by Abraham Shingledecker, Sr., for the ministry, taught a school northeast of Shane's Crossing. District No. 1 became Rockford Village District and District No. 2 became Mercer Special District.

At the first election held in Rockford Village District, April 6, 1874, the following were elected as the first Board of Education: C. B. Whitley, Cornelius Smith, D. H. Robinson, Henry Van Tilburg, P. F. Robinson and J. P. Dysert. The present Board of Education is constituted as follows: William Ketcham, William Frysinger, C. S. Behymer, J. V. Sidenbender and Lewis Eckhart. The village has a two-story, eight-room, brick school building, which was erected in 1886. The building and grounds are valued at

$18,000. Eight teachers are employed. J. H. Barnett has been superintendent of the schools for the past three years. S. Cotterman, the principal of the High School, which ranks as second-grade and has 75 pupils, has been a teacher in the Rockford schools for many years.

The Mercer Special District was organized in August, 1880. At a special election held that month, the following Board of Education was elected: J. S. Keith, Abel Harden, Jackson Harris, Jacob Counterman and O. P. Phares. Alva J. Spacht is superintendent of the Mercer schools. Three teachers are employed. The High School, which ranks as third-grade, has 10 pupils. The public school building is a two-story, three-room, structure erected some years ago.

ROCKFORD.

This town, the second in the county in the point of population, is not only the oldest settlement in the county but also one of the oldest in Northwestern Ohio. As a laid out town, duly platted and recorded, it is older than any of the surrounding county seats. Lima, Van Wert, Sidney, Kenton, Findlay and Ottawa—all seats of justice in their respective counties—are of more recent origin. Willshire in Van Wert County and this town were the first ones located and occupied in this part of the State after the founding of Piqua. The distinction of being the seat of justice of Mercer County once belonged to it. Shanesville (as Rockford was originally known), St. Marys and Coiltown were early contestants for this honor and when the prize subsequently passed from Shanesville to St. Marys, the former still lived, while Coiltown passed from sight and became a cultivated field.

Rockford is situated on the south bank of the St. Mary's River, a little west and north of the center of Dublin township. The old Indian village, Old-town, was located about a mile and a half further up the river. The town was settled as early as 1819 but prior to this date a trading post had been established here by Anthony Madore, a French trader, at a period too early to be discovered from the records. The memory of the Indians—Anthony Shane, the Crescent, Labadie, Charlie and the Godfreys—cluster about the town. Here too may be found the recorded statement of the ice blockade, which hemmed in the pirogues which were making a desperate effort to transport provisions from the old base of supplies at Fort Barbee to the suffering army of General Winchester.

The town of Shanesville was laid out by Anthony Shane on land on the St. Mary's River granted him by the United States government and was platted and surveyed in June, 1820, and the plat acknowledged before John Beers, a justice of the peace of Darke County, on June 23rd. Shane, who was a half-breed Indian, made something of an improvement here and re-

mained until 1832, when as government agent he accompanied the Shawnees in their removal from Ohio to Kansas. The name Shanesville was applied to the town from its foundation up to its incorporation, although the postoffice name was Shane's Crossing from the first. At the incorporation of the town in 1866, the name was changed to Shane's Crossing instead of Shanesville, in order to correspond with the postoffice name. The name was both significant and appropriate, as Shane's Crossing was the old home of Anthony Shane and the place where the army of General Wayne crossed the river. Shane's Crossing continued to be the name of the village until the name was changed by decree of court to Rockford, November 10, 1890. From the first, the growth of the town was slow and marked by no particular or fictitious increase of population. In the past quarter of a century, however, the town has made a very satisfactory growth in population and general resources. In 1880 the population was 404; 10 years later it had increased to 993; and at the last census, in 1900, the population was 1,207.

The pioneer store, as has been indicated, was the one originally conducted by Anthony Shane and later by Anthony Madore, the French trader, who was engaged in trading with the Indians when the first settlers arrived. William B. Hedges became a clerk in this store and later succeeded Madore. John T. Greaves next entered the business but only continued for a few years. David Work, one of the earliest settlers of the township, opened a tannery on his arrival and afterwards did a large business. William Baker was the pioneer blacksmith. Drs. Tippie and Budd were the earliest physicians of the town. After John T. Greaves, Dr. John H. Barks engaged in the mercantile business; he introduced dry goods in connection with the usual supplies, for which the principal exchange or currency was skins and furs. Some years after his arrival in the county in 1831, C. B. Whitley took up blacksmithing at Shanesville. Among the residents of the town in 1838 the following can be recalled: William B. Hedges, a landholder and justice of the peace; Basil Lint, a tavern-keeper; Robert Gordon, a storekeeper; David Work, a tanner; J. D. Ralston, a shoemaker; Samuel Drayer, a wheelwright; C. B. Whitley and Abraham Meller, blacksmiths; and Solomon Barks, a farmer. George F. Borchers, a native of Hanover, Germany, settled in the town in 1849, and opened a clothing store and tailor shop, which he conducted until 1861, when he retired from business. He was appointed postmaster of Shane's Crossing in 1853 and filled the office for 18 years. He also served as justice of the peace and as mayor many years. As early as 1854 or 1855, Jacob S. Collins and Henry Van Tilburg opened a store. Collins died about a year later and Abel Gondy entered into partnership with Van Tilburg. The firm was changed to H. F. Holbrook & Company a few years later and again, in 1869, to H. Van Tilburg & D. H. Robinson, which

continued until Van Tilburg moved upon his farm adjoining the town. After continuing in business alone for some time, Mr. Robinson sold it and engaged in the banking business, in which he has continued to the present time.

The village of Shane's Crossing was incorporated on June 12, 1866. At the first election held in the incorporated village on the 24th day of September, 1866, 44 votes were cast and the following officers were elected: Mayor, P. F. Robinson; clerk, C. W. Alexander; treasurer, H. C. McGavren; marshal, H. F. Holbrook; councilmen—Henry Van Tilburg, Davis Guy, Lewis Funalman, C. R. Bientz and Joshua Van Fleet. The present officers of Rockford, whose terms will expire in 1908, are as follows: Mayor, Cornelius Smith; clerk, F. W. Miller; treasurer, William Ketcham; marshal, George Kimbel; councilmen—John Hoffman, George Frisinger, Jacob Ehret, Charles Blossom, James Dull and Perry Cisco. E. E. Jackson is village solicitor and U. Grant Coats is postmaster; Coats was first appointed in 1897 by President McKinley and has served ever since, having been reappointed by President McKinley and by President Roosevelt. The village has a town hall, which was built quite a while ago.

The brick flouring mill owned by the Rockford Milling Company has been operated ever since it was erected in 1880. It has a capacity of 80 barrels of flour per day. The special brand manufactured is "Baker's Pride." Some eight or nine years ago the proprietors put in a small electric light plant for their own use, which was the first plant of this nature installed in Mercer County. When the mill was erected, the company owning it was entitled T. J. Dull & Company. About 20 years ago this firm was succeeded by the Dull Milling Company, which was owned by four brothers, namely: T. J., J. M., F. P. and J. B. Dull. In 1893 the name of the firm was changed to the Rockford Milling Company. In May, 1896, the interests of T. J., F. P. and J. B. Dull were acquired by three sons of J. M. Dull—Arthur P., Maurice L. and Edgar M.—who with their father now own and operate the plant. They also have a grain elevator and do a great deal of shipping of grain and at Celina they carry on a branch business. Behymer Brothers also operate a grain elevator at Rockford. Included among the manufacturing plants of the village are the tile-mill and brickyard owned by William Ketcham and others, the hoop factory owned by A. J. Hawk and the plant for the manufacture of lumber planing machines, owned by Lewis Brothers. J. E. Dellinger and John Graham conduct blacksmithing establishments.

Rockford has three dry goods stores, owned respectively by L. A. Burgess, R. J. Wagers and H. Klein; two millinery stores, conducted by Mrs. H. K. Smith and Miss Pifer; two drug-stores, conducted respectively by Mr. Mallory and Mrs. Vance; the jewelry store of Frank Wisterman; the boot and shoe store of Joseph Burgess; the clothing and gents' furnishing estab-

lishments of W. F. Pixler and Burgess and Burgess & Company; the grocery and notion stores of Taylor King, J. W. Dysert, Mr. Tickle and August Burgess, the last named also selling clothing; the undertaking and furniture establishment of William Ketcham and the agricultural implement depots of Coppersmith & Smalley and J. F. Barks. The latter also handles buggies, as does J. E. Loyd. Rockford has two hotels—the Burnett, owned by Al. Davis; and the Putman, owned by Luther Collins; there are two livery barns, whose respective proprietors are Frank Miller and Dysert Brothers.

The Farmers & Savings Bank Company, of Rockford, was incorporated under the State banking laws on August 1, 1904, being the result of a merger of the Farmers' Banking Company, of Rockford, of which D. H. Robinson was president and Frank E. Robinson, cashier, and the Rockford Savings Bank, of which Cornelius Smith was president and J. S. Riley, cashier. The officers and directors of the present company elected upon its organization have since continued in office and are as follows: D. H. Robinson, president; Cornelius Smith, vice-president; J. S. Riley, cashier; J. C. Van Fleet, assistant cashier; and D. H. Robinson, Cornelius Smith, J. S. Riley, C. S. Behymer and Frank E. Robinson, directors. The bank has a capital stock of $50,000 with undivided profits of $18,015.70. According to the last report of the bank's condition, the deposits were $191,802.43, while the loans and discounts aggregated $198,761.81. The bank owns the building in which it carries on its business.

The Rockford *Free Press,* a weekly newspaper, independent in politics, of which D. C. Kinder is publisher and proprietor, was established in 1883.

Rockford has four churches—Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian, United Brethren and Friends'; a modern, brick, school building; two attorneys—E. E. Jackson and A. E. Stewart; six physicians—Drs. W. W. Beauchamp, W. C. Zellers, A. C. Vaughn, Downing, Symons and Hughes; and two dentists—Drs. Randolph and Smith.

Rockford has the following fraternal societies: Shane's Lodge, No. 377, Free & Accepted Masons; Chapter, No. 152, Order of the Eastern Star; Shane Lodge, No. 297, Knights of Pythias; Rockford Lodge, No. 790, and a Rebekah lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; Home No. 31, Home Guards of America; Dolph Graves Post, No. 429, Grand Army of the Republic; and a tent of the Improved Order of Red Men.—Shane's Lodge, No. 377, F. & A. M. was organized under dispensation December 27, 1866, with the following charter members: Smith H. Clark, H. C. McGavren, Joshua Van Fleet, John Ralston, J. F. Tomlinson, Henry Clay, William Clay, P. P. McKaig and Joseph Palmer, all of whom are now deceased except Henry Clay. The records of the first stated meeting, held January 5, 1867, show the following officers: Smith H. Clark, W. M.; William Clay, S. W.; Joshua Van

Fleet, J. W.; Joshua Palmer, treasurer; C. E. Alexander, secretary *pro tem;* H. C. McGavren, S. D.; and Henry Clay, J. D. The present officers are: J. E. Alspaw, W. M.; W. J. Mygrantz, S. W.; Cale Frisinger, J. W.; James Lloyd, treasurer; and E. E. Jackson, secretary. The lodge has a present membership of 34.—Chapter No. 152, O. E. S., at Rockford was instituted in 1901. A charter was granted this chapter by the Grand Chapter of Ohio at its 13th session, held at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, Cincinnati, in October, 1902. The following were the charter members, 21 in number: J. E. Alspaw, Mrs. Flora C. Alspaw, J. L. Borchers, Mrs. Florence N. Borchers, Mrs. Nettie Fishbaugh, G. W. Dysert, Mrs. Celia Dysert, Mrs. Carrie V. Kirby, Miss Ella F. Smith, Mrs. Elizabeth Miller, Mrs. Martha Borchers, Mrs. Viola Pixler, Mrs. Hattie Beauchamp, E. E. Jackson, Mrs. Minnie A. Jackson, Mrs. Amanda Dellinger, Mrs. Harriet Wisterman, Mrs. Eliza A. Ward, Mrs. Flora Downing, Fred Voltz and Mrs. Clara Voltz. Mrs. Florence N. Borchers was the first worthy matron; J. E. Alspaw, the first worthy patron; and Mrs. Hattie Beauchamp, the first secretary. The membership in 1905 was 25.—Rockford Lodge, No. 790, I. O. O. F., was instituted October 22, 1890, by J. L. McKinney, special deputy grand master, a charter having been granted May 23, 1890, to the following charter members: G. R. Hagerman, Thomas McLaughlin, J. E. Courtright, W. W. Baugher, J. F. Smith, J. H. Fahnestock, A. M. Truby, J. E. Charles, L. G. McDonald, Charles Vance, W. M. H. Hosley, W. M. N. Young, A. F. Shore, John Latimer and C. B. Thompson. At the present time, Charles E. Young is noble grand and W. M. High, vice grand. The lodge has 78 members.—The charter for a Rebekah lodge was granted May 21, 1896, to the following: E. H. Harris, J. E. Gilliland, J. W. Davidson, H. Klein, T. N. Hunt, C. C. Slouffer, U. Grant Coats, G. H. Dysert, W. M. H. Hosley, Sherman Yoeman, A. M. Truby, J. P. Dysert, W. W. Beauchamp, M. E. Gilliland, Josie Davidson, Maggie Hunt, Ellie Dysert, Mollie Beinz, Hattie Beauchamp, Lou Dysert, Cora Yoeman and Mary Truby. The lodge was instituted August 17, 1896, by Grand Master John C. Whitaker. The lodge has a present membership of 25.—Shane Lodge, No. 297, K. of P., was organized May 8, 1898. The first officers were: J. J. McLaughlin, C. C.; W. F. Penn, V. C.; and Leroy Pence, K. of R. & S.—Home No. 31, H. G. of A., was instituted February 2, 1900, with the following charter members: J. F. Smith, Lauren Loro, E. P. Revington, J. S. Shock, S. F. Pifer, C. H. Ling, Mrs. C. H. Ling, Mrs. Fannie Chivington, Hattie Clay, Mrs. Clarissa A. Tennery, R. D. Stover, T. C. Morrow, F. E. DeLong, H. J. Cordier, Mrs. C. C. Weist, George Pond, T. R. Chivington, John McKaig, Herman Shinaberry and S. A. Clay. The first officers were the following: J. F. Smith, counselor; C. H. Ling, vice-counselor; Herman Shinaberry, past counselor; Mrs. Clarissa A. Tennery, secre-

tary; H. J. Cordier, treasurer; Mrs. C. H. Ling, chaplain; R. D. Stover, guide; T. C. Morrow, conductor; S. F. Pifer, 1st shield; Mrs. Fannie Chivington, 2nd shield. The officers for 1906 were as follows: D. E. Robinson, counselor; William Bartling, vice-counselor; Walter Longsworth, past counselor; and Mrs. William Bartling, chaplain. The home has a membership of 120.—Dolph Graves Post, No. 429, G. A. R., was organized in 1895. The charter members of this post, who were largely members of the 71st Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., were as follows: J. W. Smith, L. L. Dysert, Joel Whitley, Lewis Funalman, D. H. Robinson and W. W. Shaffer. The post has a present membership of 25.—A tent of the Improved Order of Red Men was organized at Rockford in 1899 or 1900 with 22 charter members. The present officers are as follows: J. E. Gilliland, prophet; Charles Knight, sachem; Lewis Cook, senior sagamore; Lauren Loro, junior sagamore; Frank Robinson, chief of records; Willis Tester, collector of wampum; and Clarence Shaffer, keeper of wampum.

MERCER

Is located in the southeastern part of Dublin township on a branch of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railway. It was laid out for Bernard Brewster, August 30, 1833, and contained 30 lots. It has never been incorporated. It is surrounded by a good farming community and is one of the oldest towns in the northern part of the county. J. W. Shively and Mrs. Alice Daugherty are proprietors of general stores and Shell. Harden conducts a blacksmith shop. J. F. Disher conducts a grain elevator and Roetger & Fast operate a sawmill and tile-mill. Will Thompson is postmaster. The only physician is Dr. William Nuding. Mercer has two churches—the Methodist Episcopal, built of brick, and the Baptist, a frame structure; and a frame public school building of three rooms.

BLACK CREEK TOWNSHIP

This township, which is the northwestern township of the county, was organized April 12, 1834, and the first election was held on April 28th at the house of Chauncey Knowlton. It is six miles square and is divided into sections of one mile square, except in the northeastern corner of the township where there are two small reservations, known as the Charlie and Labadie reservations. It is bounded on the north by Van Wert County, on the east by Dublin township, on the south by Liberty township and on the west by Adams County, Indiana. It is quite level except in the extreme northern part, where it is slightly undulating, but as a whole it is sufficiently rolling for ample drainage. In the western part is a small flat called Duck Creek

Prairie, which is quite low and level and has a rich alluvial soil. The township is crossed by two small streams—Big Black Creek and Little Black Creek—which flow northward and empty into the St. Mary's River at Willshire, Van Wert County. The soil varies but is principally a clay loam and above the average in productiveness. Black Creek township has long since been looked upon as one of the richest in Mercer County, the land bringing the highest price of any in the county. Crops of all kinds are grown in abundance and good markets at no great distance, at Willshire, Van Wert County, and Rockford, Mercer County, are reached over well-improved roads. The township is well provided with good schoolhouses and well-built and well-kept churches. No villages are found within its borders.

The present officials of Black Creek township are the following: Trustees—O. O. Stover, W. Kuhn and A. J. Bargahiser; clerk, John Andress; treasurer, D. T. Ruffner; justices of the peace—J. E. Piper and A. J. Dellinger. The population of the township in 1880 was 1,441; in 1890, 1,557; and in 1900, 1,438.

PIONEERS.

The township was not settled as early as was Dublin township, the heavy forest growth and wet condition of the land retarding its settlement. Land was first taken up along the Fort Wayne road. It is thought that William Harris and a man by the name of Shaw were the first, as they were here prior to 1830. The following list comprises such settlers as established themselves here prior to 1836: William Harris, Thomas Harris, ——— Shaw, John Street, Charles Henderson, Jacob Harper, Joseph Harper, Jacob Stetler, Ebenezer Goddard, James Heath, Henry Hoaglin, John Rutan, Benjamin Manly, ——— Sivey, Jesse King and Silas Jordan. In the three succeeding years came Joseph Mapes, Chauncey Knowlton and the Gauzes, Downs, Sprys, Countermans and Kennedys. Other early settlers were: David Wright; J. C. Whitney, A. P. Nott, A. Guthrie, E. J. Detmer, A. Shuks, Jacob Tickle, Jacob Bollenbaugh, Martin Winkler, Daniel D. Cross, B. Hobblet, Henry Van Tilburg, Moses Stover, John Addy, John Andrew Leistner, Levi Shock, Thomas R. Miller, Frederick Becher and the Lorees, Rutledges and Robinsons.

The first log cabin in the township was built by William Harper, while the first frame house was erected by Jesse King. The first marriage was that of Jacob Harper and Kalinda Watkins, in 1831, and the first birth was that of Alexander Harper, son of Jacob Harper, born in 1833. The first schoolhouse was built about 1840.

CHURCHES.

Black Creek township has two Methodist Episcopal churches—Duck Creek Church and Fountain Chapel. Both churches are served by the pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Willshire, Van Wert County. The Duck Creek Church was the first religious society formed in the township, being organized about 1856 by Rev. Joshua Smith at the Duck Creek schoolhouse. A frame church building was erected in 1868. Among the first members were: A. M. Counterman and wife, Alonzo Cross and wife, George Clark and wife and William Harper and wife.

There are two classes of the United Brethren Church in the township—Pleasant Grove and Bethel. Rev. Betz is the pastor of both churches.

CHAPTER V

LIBERTY, HOPEWELL, WASHINGTON AND BUTLER TOWNSHIPS

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP

Lies south of Black Creek township, west of Hopewell and Jefferson townships, north of Washington township and east of the Indiana State line. It is six miles square and contains 36 square miles. Big Beaver Creek enters the township in section 35, flows through section 34 and in section 33 empties into the Wabash River, which flows west through sections 32 and 31 into Indiana. The township is settled principally by German Lutherans, a majority of whom however, speak good English; the schools are all conducted in the English language. When first settled, the township was heavily wooded. In course of time, when the land was cleared and put under cultivation, Liberty became one of the foremost townships of the county, second to none in agricultural possibilities. The soil is very productive.

The township was organized March 1, 1841, and the first election was held at the house of Philip Bolton on the first Friday in June following. The present township officers are as follows: Trustees—Jacob Gehm, William Florence and Jacob Betzer; clerk, Andrew Bauer; treasurer, John J. Bollenbacher; justice of the peace, George Felver. The population of the township in 1900 was 1,733. In 1880, it was 1,196 and in 1890, 1,652.

PIONEERS.

Daniel Freeman, John and Philip Bolton, Timothy Hankins and Isaac Trace were probably the first settlers in the township. When Jacob Deitsch and daughter, Philip Deitsch and family and Adam Bollenbacher, wife and son, came to the township in 1840, they found four cabins here, which had been occupied by the pioneers named above. Among the early settlers of the township were the Bollenbachers, Deitsches, Frederick Becher, Henry Kuhn,

Henry and John Leininger, Frederick and Ferdinand Kable, Dr. S. R. Wilson, Samuel M. Loree, Christian Kessler, Granville Freeman and others. Quite a few of these pioneers are still living; some reside in the township and others live in neighboring towns, having left their farms to the care of their children.

* * *

This township has furnished its quota of county officials. Dr. S. R. Wilson served four years as county coroner in the 70's. Samuel M. Loree, once treasurer of the county, was elected from Black Creek township, but was originally from Liberty. Frank P. Hinton recently retired from the Board of Infirmary Directors, after serving two terms. Charles Bollenbacher served as commissioner for two terms of three years each. The township is now represented on the Board of County Commissioners in the person of Peter Linn, who is now serving his second term of three years.

CHURCHES.

There are four Evangelical Lutheran churches in the township, two of which are regular—St. Paul's and Zion's congregations. St. Paul's congregation was organized in 1841 by Rev. Frederick Knabe, who conducted services here once every two months during a period of nearly four years. During the pastorate of his successor, Rev. Burger, the congregation split, many of the old members joining the Albright faction. Another split also occurred under Rev. Burger's successor, Rev. J. G. Strickfus. Rev. J. I. Müller, the next pastor, was followed in June, 1850, by Rev. J. D. Gackenheimer, during whose pastorate of 11 years a church building was erected, being dedicated November 30, 1851. Another split took place when Zion's congregation was organized. A frame church building was erected about 1866. Mr. Gackenheimer was followed by Revs. George Heintz, Philip Schmidt and Hugo Willert in the order named. Rev. A. F. Gilman is the present pastor. The congregation has a membership of 120 and an average Sunday-school attendance of 40. The church building cost $6,000 and the parsonage, $800. Zion's congregation at Chattanooga, an offshoot of St. Paul's congregation, was organized in 1860, in which year a church building was erected. The congregation at the present time own the following property: Church building, valued at $3,000; parsonage, valued at $1,500; and a parochial school building, valued at $1,500. There are 200 members of the congregation and 125 Sunday-school scholars. The following pastors have served the congregation: Revs. George Heintz, Philip Schmidt, Hugo Willert, F. Besel, C. Adam, C. Reinhardt, J. Soller, J. Vollmar, A. Affeld, P. Schmidt, P. Brockhaus and George Haas, the present pastor.—Rev. Samuel Egger is pastor of St. Paul's German Evangelical Church in this township.

The Friends' Church in Liberty township was built recently at a cost of $1,200. About 50 members constitute the meeting. Local preachers fill the pulpit, there being no regular pastor.

Mount Carmel Church of God is the only society of this denomination in Liberty township. Rev. J. W. Johnson, who is also in charge of the Tabor and Pleasant View churches in Hopewell township, is pastor.

SCHOOLS.

The township has 10 school buildings, two of which are brick and eight frame. Nearly all of them are comparatively new structures. Each of the 10 teachers employed receives $420 for nine months' teaching.

CHATTANOOGA

Is an unincorporated town of something over 100 inhabitants, situated on the north line of the township near the northwest corner. It has a hotel, a church, a school, general stores, blacksmith shop and barber shop. It also has a resident physician, Dr. Price T. Waters.

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP

Is six miles in length from east to west and five miles wide from north to south. It has an area of 30 square miles. It is bounded on the north by Dublin township, on the east by Center township, on the south by Jefferson township, and on the west by Liberty township. The township is level throughout and the soil is exceedingly fertile. There are no streams of importance within its borders. It has three country stores at different places in the township. At Stedcke, John W. Shively has a general store; at Tamah, a station on the Cincinnati Northern Railroad, there is a store and grocery and also a grain elevator; and at Oregon, a station on the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railway, there is a store. The Home Telephone Company, of which the secretary, I. N. Kraner, is a resident of Hopewell township, has lines all over the township.

The township was organized December 6, 1842. The present township officials are as follows: Trustees—William Hair, G. F. Sielschott and B. F. Smith; clerk, Ed. Hellwarth; treasurer, John Now; justices of the peace—James L. Morrow and John L. Hansel. The population in 1880 was 1,185; in 1890, 1,414; and in 1900, 1,313.

PIONEERS.

The western part of the township was largely settled by people of German descent. The northern and eastern portions were settled by English-

speaking people from the older counties of Ohio. The early families of German people were those of Wilhelm Fetter, Michael Hellwarth, John Miller, John Frahm, Frederick Sielschott, Henry Beathler, John Now and the Siebert family—John H. and Adam Siebert still live here. Jacob Eichar, one of the pioneers of this township, came from Stark County, Ohio, September 10, 1837. His family live here at present. Joshua Roberts was an early settler of the county. He first came to Center and afterwards moved into Hopewell township, in 1879. William Morrow came to this township when it was a wilderness and has lived to see it cleared and improved with good homes and beautiful farms, surrounded by all the comforts and conveniences. William Buck, Peter W. Shimp, Edward Willcutt, W. L. Groves, John Lehman, Lewis Smith and Henry Crogman all came to this township 50 or more years ago. J. C. Brookhart settled in the township in 1851; Samuel Brookhart settled in the county in 1852. Amos Chapman is an old settler of the township. The Pierstorf family came from Germany prior to the Civil War and settled in the township. William Y. Wallace was a pioneer, who settled here in 1837. Moses McCristy was a native-born citizen of Mercer County, born March 7, 1832. The Fast family came about 50 years ago. John E. Smith settled in Mercer County in 1847, coming from Germany. William Regedanz came from Germany and settled here in 1852. Tobias Eichenauer was born in Germany and settled in Mercer County in 1867. There are others who came at a later date and have been instrumental in developing and improving the township. Frederick Stedcke, who settled here at a very early date, has been a worker in church and educational matters in the county.

CHURCHES.

Hopewell township is well supplied with schools and churches, having six religious organizations.

German Evangelical Lutheran, St. John's congregation, was incorporated May 21, 1866, its trustees at this time being William Grube, Sr., Charles Weis and J. Frahm. It was served in connection with other churches of the denomination until 1883, when Rev. W. Luedemann became pastor, in which capacity he served until 1891. The congregation was without a pastor, in 1892. From 1893 to 1906, inclusive, the following were in charge of St. John's congregation: Revs. John Toutaman, William Grabeman, John Fritz and H. J. Melcher. Rev. J. E. Harman, pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church at Celina, is now filling the pulpit. The congregation numbers 150 members and the Sunday-school has an average attendance of 50. The large brick church is valued at $4,000, and the parsonage, at $500.

Hope Church, of the Evangelical Association of North America, dates

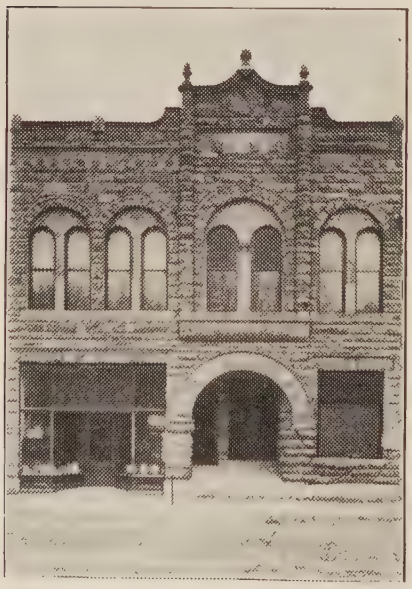
from June 26, 1868, when the Hoffming class of this denomination met in the church of Mount Hope, in Hopewell township, and elected the following trustees: John E. Smith, Andrew Stedcke, Frederick Smith, Conrad Smith and John Hellwarth. The present church, located in the western part of the township, was built in 1894, under the direction of the pastor, Rev. George Readerer, at a cost of $1,300. The parsonage was erected at a cost of $800. The church has a membership of 170, and the Sunday-school, an average attendance of about 100. Herewith are given the names of the pastors of the church since 1881, with their respective terms of service: Revs. William Konig (three years), Henry Arlen (three years), Shuh (two years), Albert Fisher (three years), George Readerer (three years), William Ackerman (two years), J. F. Bockman (one year), John Schnitz (one year), H. H. Schlicker (two years), L. J. Ehrhart (two years) and L. J. Buyer, who will have served four years, in April, 1907.

There are two societies of the Church of God—Tabor in the eastern part of the township and Pleasant View, in the western—both of which, with Mount Carmel Church of God in Liberty township, are served by Rev. J. W. Johnson. The Tabor class was organized in the Mercer Methodist Episcopal Church where services were held for a number of years. In 1883 Tabor Church, a frame structure, was built at a cost of $1,500. The members of the class at this time were: William Hensel, Jacob Fast, A. G. Fast and Anderson Chapman and their families. William Hensel, Jacob Fast and A. G. Fast were the trustees. The church was dedicated in September, 1883, by Rev. Koogle, who was then pastor. He was followed by the following, in order as named: Revs. Poland, Cassel, McNutt, Hoover, Munyon, Poland, Rockwell, Richey, Miller and Johnson, who is the present pastor. The class has a present membership of 40. The Sunday-school has an average attendance of 35.

Union United Brethren Church was organized many years ago; the first members of the church were Andrew Sherrick and wife, William Morrow and wife, Enoch Johnson and wife, John Tester, William Hamline and wife, Daniel Weaver and wife and John Cook and wife. The present church building, located near the center of the township, was erected in 1892 at a cost of $1,500. The church has a present membership of 70 and an average attendance at Sunday-school of 50. The church belongs to the branch called "Radical" and has been served by the following pastors: Revs. Michael Johnson (two years), William Kiracoffe (two years), William Kindel (two years), Thomas Coats (two years), Thomas Beber (two years), Jacob Kiracoffe (two years), Thomas Weyn (two years), C. S. Johnson (two years), Thomas Harvey (three years), A. J. Steman (two years), James Sherer (two

CITIZENS BANK, CELINA

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLDWATER



FIRST NATIONAL BANK, CELINA

COMMERCIAL BANK, CELINA

years), and J. L. Culbertson, who is serving his second year. Union Church and Otterbein Church in Dublin township are served by the same pastor.

The Friends' Church in Hopewell township was organized some 20 or more years ago, John H. Dysert being the leader at that time. The church is located in the northwest corner of the township and cost $1,500. The society has a membership of 40. Rev. Isaiah Jay is the pastor.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

This township is bounded on the north by Liberty township, on the east by Jefferson and Butler townships, on the south by Recovery township and on the west by the State of Indiana. It is regular in form and contains 36 square miles. It is crossed from south to north by the Wabash River, while Beaver Creek flows across its northeast corner. These form sufficient courses of natural drainage and the township has rapidly improved in all its agricultural features. The population is largely German in character and is enterprising and industrious.

Washington township was organized March 5, 1838, and the first election was held at the house of George Arbaugh, on April 2, 1838, when the following officers were elected: Trustees—James Schoonover, David Trexler and James Q. Grimes; clerk, William Nichols; constable, Peter Stevens; overseers of the poor—John Dixon and George Armstead; fence viewers—Edward Dixon and Samuel Freeman, Jr.; supervisor, Justin Stevens; and treasurer, George Arbaugh. On the 26th of May following, William Nichols was unanimously elected justice of the peace. The present township officers are as follows: Trustees—Daniel Fennig, Orville S. Ashcraft and Joseph Born; clerk, George L. Schroyer; treasurer, John McQueen; justices of the peace—Perry C. Knox and James Jeffries.

In 1886 the township contained 8,933 acres of arable land, 2,577 acres of meadow land and 11,347 acres of woodland—a total of 22,857 acres, valued, with the buildings, at $362,345. In 1906 the assessor made the following returns: Acres of cultivated land, 10,364; acres of pasture land, 6,592; acres of woodland, 2,793; acres of waste land, 405. The population of the township in 1880 was 1,384; in 1890, 1,617; and in 1900, 1,487.

SPECULATORS' LAND.

The lands in this township were nearly all entered between the years 1836 and 1840 and the larger tracts were entered by parties who never lived in the county and were called speculators' land. In section 1 David Cathcart entered 641 acres in 1839. He never lived on the land. Jefferson Walters, who lived at Dayton, Ohio, entered 320 acres in 1837. He never lived in

the county but kept his land until in the '80's. It was unfortunate for the township that so much land was held by non-residents who did nothing to clear and improve their lands, but this land is now owned by resident landowners who have cleared and improved it.

PIONEERS.

Most of the early settlers entered land in 40, 80 and 160-acre tracts. Among the first settlers in the township were John Boley, John Betz, Samuel Arbaugh, David Harrod, E. A. Hillary, William Spriggs, W. Fishpaw, Peter McMillen, Joseph Loughridge, David Houston, William B. Wilson, Daniel Freeman, John Dixon, William Loughridge, Amos Dixon, H. Davidson, William Davidson, Joseph Davidson, George L. Adair, Henry Fortman, William C. Armstead, Samuel McDowell, Richard Scott, Thomas Clinton and Adam Miller.

CHURCHES.

Washington township has two Christian or New Light churches—Bethel and Wabash. Bethel Church was organized by Elder O. S. Green, June 17, 1871, with 31 communicants, with the Bible as their only rule of faith and practice, and Christian character as the only test of Christian fellowship. Elder Green was chosen pastor and filled the position many years. By 1880 the church had grown to a membership of between 80 and 90.—Wabash Church was organized at the town of Wabash, March 28, 1880, by Elder O. S. Green, with 11 communicants, with the same tenets as Bethel Church. The first officers of the church were the following: Deacons—Joseph Doner and William McCane; clerk, Allen Wishon.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized about February, 1861. The present church edifice was built in 1886. The church property is valued at $1,000, and the parsonage at $800. The church has 130 members and the Sunday-school, 45 scholars. The following pastors have served the congregation: Revs. Seitz, Heintz, Phil. Schmidt, H. Willert, W. Schmidt, A. J. Feeger, W. G. Nicol, C. E. Herbst, A. F. Klopfer and H. N. Probst, the present pastor.

There are two Methodist Episcopal churches in Washington township, namely: Erastus and Washington Chapel. Both churches are served by the pastor of the Fort Recovery Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. J. H. Butler; both have flourishing Sunday-schools. The list of pastors and other information relating to the churches will be found in the sketch of the Fort Recovery Methodist Episcopal Church.

St. Anthony's Catholic Church at Padua is the only church of this de-

nomination in the township. A history of this church will be found in the chapter devoted to Roman Catholic churches and institutions.

SCHOOLS.

The whole township constituted one school district until March 2, 1842, when it was divided into three districts, each six miles long and two miles wide. The records show that a Miss Montgomery was probably the first school teacher; in December, 1838, she was paid $6 for teaching. In February, 1839, Lewis J. Hunt was paid $30 for teaching. There are now 11 schoolhouses in the township—three brick and eight frame. There are 11 teachers employed at $50 per month for the eight months of school each year.

MACEDON, ERASTUS, PADUA AND WABASH.

This township contains no very large towns but there are four trading places. Macedon is a very old town. It was laid out by William Nichols and George Arbaugh on September 28, 1838, in 60 lots. It had at one time a hotel, two stores, grocery and blacksmith and wagon shop, but at present it has only a few residents and no business is carried on.

Erastus is a small place with only a few people and no business.

Padua is a town of few inhabitants. The church and school is about all it can boast of.

Wabash is the best and largest town in the township. It has a store and blacksmith shop, a church and a school.

BUTLER TOWNSHIP

Is one of the leading townships of the county. Its land is in a high state of cultivation, the farms are well kept and the buildings are modern and up-to-date. A great many of the farmhouses are of brick and one seldom sees other than large capacious barns and granaries. As in the case of the other townships, corn, wheat and oats are the main crops raised. The soil is well adapted to these crops as well as to timothy and clover, which are raised in plentiful crops. The township is traversed by two railroads—the Cincinnati Northern, running north and south and the Lake Erie & Western, which runs from northeast to southwest. Both pass through Coldwater, the principal town, thus affording a good market for the people of the township.

The township was organized June 4, 1838, 25 residents petitioning the County Commissioners for such action, and the first election was held at the house of David Gray on Saturday, July 9, 1838. The township is bounded on the north by Jefferson township, on the east by Jefferson township, the

Grand Reservoir and Franklin township, on the south by Granville township, and on the west by Recovery and Washington townships. For the greater part it is six miles from east to west and five and a half miles from north to south, and has an area of about 32 square miles. The township had a population of 1,595 in 1880; 1,930 in 1890; and 1,995 in 1900. The present township officials are as follows: Trustees—Henry Stukenborg, Henry G. Uppenkamp and John L. Bucanon; clerk, D. W. Frick; treasurer, Jacob Wilhoff; justice of the peace—D. W. Frick.

PIONEERS.

One of the first settlers of the township was J. C. Gray, who came here in 1835. Peter Stevens came here from Licking County, Ohio, in 1837. Philip Baker moved to Mercer County in 1836; his son Jacob settled in section 21, Butler township, in 1840; some of the family still live in the township. The Snider and Frank families were among the earliest settlers of Butler township. Samuel Snider was the first settler on land in section 34. George Frank built the first blacksmith shop. The first store-house was built by David Buzzard and the first dwelling house in Coldwater was built by Samuel Snider. John F. Hickman was born in Mercer County in 1836 and lived here all his life. Jeremiah Plummer moved to Mercer County in 1836 and became a resident of Butler township; Isaac Kester, in 1839; and John Buehler and W. B. Wigner, in 1840. Jacob Hyman settled near Coldwater in 1844. John F. Albers, a native of Germany, settled in Butler township in 1846; his family were the first settlers on land in section 4. At this time Mercer County was one vast woods. James Grunden was another pioneer of Butler township, settling here in 1846. Joseph H. Smith entered land in 1832 and settled on it in 1852. He was the first settler on land in section 32. President Martin Van Buren signed his government deed. The Indians were his nearest neighbors on the west. He assisted in building the first schoolhouse in the district. When the family moved on the land they had a big oak tree for their shelter until they raised a cabin in which to live. Wild animals of all kinds abounded. Henry Lennartz settled here with his parents in 1848, when 12 years old. John J. Spoltman came in 1849; John W. Bennett and Herman Nieberding, in 1855; Joseph Birkmeyer, in 1857; and Henry Roetker, in 1858. Butler township is at present settled with a German population, who are an industrious and frugal people.

CHURCHES.

Butler township has two large and flourishing Roman Catholic churches: Holy Trinity at Coldwater and St. Mary's at Philothea. The history of these churches is given in another chapter of this work.

The Coldwater Methodist Episcopal Church was organized at an early date. It has a present membership of 45, and an average Sunday-school attendance of 55. The frame church building has an estimated value of $1,200. This church belongs to the Celina circuit and is served by Rev. C. M. Baker, who resides in Celina, and has charge also of Center and Copps' chapels in Center township and the Montezuma Methodist Episcopal Church in Franklin township. The names of the pastors who have served these appointments in recent years will be found in the sketch of the last mentioned church.

There are two United Brethren churches in Butler township, Spring Valley and Burnt Wood, both located in the eastern part of the township. Both churches are served by Rev. William Miller. Spring Valley Church belongs to the branch of the denomination known as "Radical," and has only a few members. Burnt Wood Church, which has 10 or 12 members, belongs to the branch known as "Liberal."

Ash Grove Church of the German Baptist Brethren, in the Southern District of Ohio, is located in section 15, Butler township, three miles north of Coldwater. The church was erected in 1893 at a cost of about $1,200. The main part of the church is 34 by 48 feet in dimensions, with an ell 12 by 30 feet. Benjamin Coate and J. C. Shively were the trustees at the time the church was built. The church has a membership of 28 and during the last quarter there was an average Sunday-school attendance of 41. The church is served by local ministers, Revs. F. P. Cordier and A. D. Coate. The original church of the German Baptist Brethren was organized in Germany in 1708, Alexander Mack being one of the organizers. Members of this denomination came to America in the early history of the Colonies and founded the church here.

SCHOOLS.

Butler township is well supplied with excellent district schools. The schoolhouses compare favorably with those in other sections of the county. The Coldwater Village School District has a modern, two-story, brick schoolhouse, one of the finest in the county, erected recently at a cost of $10,000, which is a credit to the village. John Omlor is superintendent of the schools, having recently succeeded J. H. Tener in this position. The village Board of Education is constituted as follows: William Wendel, F. A. Franks, Anthony Mesher, J. M. Wilhoff and Charles Stukenborg. The High School department of the village schools has 17 pupils and ranks as third-grade.

COLDWATER.

This village, located in the center of Butler township, on the Cincinnati Northern and Lake Erie & Western railroads, is one of the most active busi-

ness towns in the county. It was laid out by William A. O. Munsell, the plat being recorded on August 18, 1859. It is a growing town and has a bank and a newspaper, and all the stores and industries necessary to the welfare and the convenience of the people. It is also well supplied with churches—Holy Trinity Catholic Church, one of the largest structures in the county; and the Coldwater Methodist Episcopal Church. During the last 25 or 30 years the town has had a steady growth. The population was 237 in 1880; 490 in 1890; and 627 in 1900. Coldwater was incorporated as a village in 1883. The present village officers are: Mayor, F. A. Franks; clerk, Edw. W. Hess; treasurer, J. B. Haslinger; and marshal, William Mackey. The village has a Town Hall.

The People's Bank of Coldwater is an incorporated institution under the supervision of the State banking department. The bank, which has been running a number of years, moved into its new bank building in December, 1906. The following are the directors of this institution: John Birkmeyer, F. B. Birkmeyer, Ben Baker, C. C. Borman, A. D. Coate, H. C. Fox, H. B. Hoffman, Charles Hess, Fred. Hehmeyer, Henry Hageman, Phil. Kirsch, Anthony Rathweg, J. H. Saalman, John M. Wilhoff, Martin Wilhoff, John Wilhoff and John Wannamacher. H. B. Hoffman is cashier.

The Coldwater *Chronicle*, which was established a few years ago, is conducted by E. B. Lewis as editor and publisher.

Quite a little manufacturing is done at Coldwater for a town of its size. Andrew X. Walter conducts a large brickyard; Anthony Rathweg, a broom factory; Joseph Weamer, a butter tub factory; Henry H. Lampe, an excelsior factory; and Henry Fuerst and J. F. Schults, cigar factories. Fox & Hess operate a grist-mill and deal in grain, also having a branch at St. Henry; H. B. Hoffman also operates a grain elevator at Coldwater. There are three general stores, conducted by Henry C. Fox, William Haslinger & Son, and C. F. Morvilius; three grocery stores, conducted by Joseph Franks, John Sutherland and Mrs. Catherine Desch; three meat markets, run by Becker & Konrath, M. G. Martin and James Schuckman; two millinery establishments, conducted by N. M. Gast and Mrs. D. H. Miller; one tailor shop, owned by F. A. Franks; one clothing store, conducted by Samuel Cahn; one notion store, of which the proprietor is Mrs. Anna Heman; one drug store, conducted by C. E. Schindler; one jewelry store, of which the proprietor is Phil C. Stachler; one confectionery store, conducted by P. E. Arbaugh; two hardware stores, run by Jacob Wilhoff and Kleinhenz & Garner; and three blacksmith shops run by Bernard Brothers, John Martz and Henry Stuve. Other business houses of the town are the following: George Heiser, dealer in vehicles, harness, etc.; Henry Landwehr, harness; Rathweg & Hoyng, implements; Robert Hixon Lumber Company (the Coldwater branch of a Toledo,

Ohio, establishment), lumber; Wapelhorst & Mackey, coal; J. F. Hoyng and Henry Wapelhorst, who conduct tinshops and deal in stoves; J. C. Miller, who conducts a repair shop and deals in bicycles; a branch produce store of J. A. Long, of Portland, Indiana; D. H. Miller, hotel; J. B. Birkmeyer, livery stable; J. J. Birkmeyer, barber; J. B. Desch, undertaker, also dealer in furniture; and Desch & Hummer, monuments. Coldwater has three physicians —Drs. Charles W. Mackenbach, C. F. Bolman and Weamer; and one dentist, Dr. H. G. Glew.

PHILOTHEA

Is a small settlement with a population of about 20, situated in the southwest part of the township. St. Mary's Catholic Church is located here. J. H. Bruns & Company have a grocery store here; H. T. Noble, a tailor shop; and Ben. Spoltman, a blacksmith shop.

CHAPTER VI

RECOVERY AND GIBSON TOWNSHIPS

RECOVERY TOWNSHIP

Was organized May 5, 1831. It is bounded on the north by Washington township, on the east by Granville and Butler townships, on the south by Gibson township and on the west by the State of Indiana. It is six miles from east to west and has an average width from north to south of about four miles. The south line is irregular, being the Greenville treaty line, separating Recovery from Gibson township. Gibson township was organized as a part of Mercer County at a later date, and lies between Recovery township and the Darke County line. The Wabash River flows across the township and is the only stream of any size in the township; at one time it afforded power for a number of mills that were built upon its banks. The surface of the township is inclined to be rolling. The soil is very fertile. The population of the township was 1,272 in 1880; 1,487 in 1890; and 1,396 in 1900. The present township officials are as follows: Trustees—Valentine Heiby, J. W. Buscher and Charles Stein; clerk, Otto Summers; treasurer, Ber. Grieshop; justices of the peace—J. S. Clum and Michael Schock.

PIONEERS.

We find that entries of land in this township were made as early as 1831, possibly at an earlier date, but the fact of entry does not make those who entered the land settlers. A great many acres were entered by parties who never lived on the land. The McDowell family were early settlers. John Adney, David Beardslee and Obed Beardslee moved to the township in an early day. Alexander Grant was a pioneer. William Downs, the Andersons, Nickersons and Scotts, Nehemiah Grover and Isaac DeHays were among the pioneers, and their names are familiar ones in the township to-day. John Grant,

Jacob and John Runckle, William Money, Alexander Scott, John Doll, John Wise, H. Davidson, John Miller, Wendel Doll, Anthony Dull, Samuel Phipps, A. Tucker, William McDowell, John S. McDowell, Anthony Bloom, Morand Buschor, George Troutman, James Houser, Daniel Roesner, Daniel Jones, Peter Schwartz, Philo Willischeck, Martin Burris, James Stowe, Ignatius Tollard, Isaiah Totten, Joseph Weis, Daniel Van Trees and many more helped to clear up and develop the township. David Anderson built the first mill on the Wabash River in the county in 1832. P. D. Moss built and operated an ox-mill, which may also be classed as one of the first mills in the county.

In the pioneer days there were few roads, and those hardly passable the greater part of the year. Schools and churches were scarce, and railroads, telephone and telegraph were things unknown. Steam mills were not found in every town in the county as they are at present. Recovery had a steam mill prior to the Civil War, built by John Oswald, which was one of the first, if not the first, in the county. But the history of the township to-day is full of interest. The roads of the township are well improved; pikes, which cost vast sums of money, are found all over the township; railroads and telegraph and telephone lines are in use all over the county; free rural delivery of mail has been successfully established; and splendid churches and good school-houses, well furnished for the education of the children and the accommodation of the church-going people, have been built. Farming is the principal occupation of the people of Recovery township, and the staple agricultural products are corn, wheat and oats, although all kinds of grain and vegetables can be raised. Hay and pasture land is good in this township. The farmers are ambitious to have the best stock. Farmers' Institutes are held at Fort Recovery and are well attended by the farming community. The township to-day is in all respects up-to-date and its people are industrious and progressive.

MONTEREY, ST. JOSEPH AND FERNER.

Recovery township has within its borders a number of small hamlets that usually have a store or grocery and, before the free delivery of mail went into effect, a postoffice.

The old town of Monterey, which was laid out in 1849 by Isaac Raus, had at one time a general store owned and operated by Henry Wurdeman and at a later date conducted by Mother Goerke; now it is only a place of a few residences, without any business.

St. Joseph, a small town not far from Fort Recovery, was laid out in 1861 by Archbishop John B. Purcell, who owned the land. This town at one time supported a small store and grocery. Its main feature at the present time

is St. Joseph's Catholic Church. The church is one of the oldest in the southern part of the county and until the Catholic Church at Fort Recovery was built nearly all the Catholic residents of the latter place worshiped at St. Joseph's.

When the Lake Erie & Western Railroad was extended on west from Celina to Fort Recovery, a station was established in the northeastern part of the township called Ferner, which was at one time a postoffice.

GIBSON TOWNSHIP

Which is located in the southwest corner of this county, was originally in Darke County, Ohio, and became a part of Mercer County in 1849. It is bounded on the north by Recovery township, on the east by Granville township, on the south by Darke County and on the west by the Indiana State line. It is six miles long from east to west and has an average width from north to south of three and a half miles, the only variation being on the northern line, which corresponds to that of the old Greenville treaty line, which bears northwest until it strikes the Wabash River at Fort Recovery, where it diverges to the southwest, continuing in this direction until it reaches the State line. The township has no streams of any considerable size. The Wabash River has its source in Hog Prairie, four miles south of Fort Recovery and perhaps half a mile east. From there, only a small ditch in size, it runs south and east for quite a distance and winds around to the north and west until it arrives at Fort Recovery, within four miles of its source, having traversed a space of 60 miles in its meanderings. The land is for the most part rolling, although some portions are a little hilly. There are good gravel banks in the section of the township that is near the town of Fort Recovery. Farming and stock-raising are the principal pursuits of the citizens of the township. The farming lands are nearly all cleared and dense woods are a thing of the past. Groves that are left for shade and wooded pastures are all that are left to remind one of days that are gone. A thorough system of ditching and tile drainage has reclaimed all the swales and low swamp lands and converted them into fine fertile farms, and water is no longer found in pools along the roads for the greater part of the year, as was formerly the case. The mud roads of by-gone days have been macadamized. Large frame barns and granaries are now found on farms that not many years ago had old log barns and other pioneer buildings. The churches are for the most part modern structures, principally constructed of brick, and the same can also be said of the schoolhouses. There is a large German Catholic population in the eastern part of the township, while in the western part are English-speaking people, the Germans in this section being Protestants.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, MERCER

PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, MONTEZUMA

PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, MENDON

PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, FORT RECOVERY

Gibson township has 4,309 acres of cultivated land; 4,494 acres of pasture land; 2,371 acres of woodland; and 515 acres of waste land, as reported to the county auditor by the assessor in 1906. The population of the township was 1,462 in 1880; 1,658 in 1890; and 1,568 in 1900. The township officials at the present time are the following: Trustees—R. E. McClung, James Z. Mott and John Hildbold; clerk, A. A. Kolp; treasurer, John Isenhart; justices of the peace—William Reichard and James Sanford Watkins.

PIONEERS.

The southern and western part of Gibson township was largely settled by people from Southern Ohio and Pennsylvania, who originally came from Virginia and North and South Carollina, although a few came from Delaware. Among the early settlers in this section were the families of James Cummins, Henry Denney, Benjamin Clark and William F. Denney, who came from Gallia County, Ohio; the Clarks, who came from England; Wateman Hastings and Solomon Collins, who came from the State of Delaware; and Robert Hunter, James Alexander and David Hays who came from Fairfield County, Ohio—all of these settled in Gibson township about the same time. Nathan S. Scranton settled on a farm in Gibson township in 1849; the Scranton family, who were originally from the State of Connecticut, came to Mercer County from Medina County, Ohio. Near the town of Fort Recovery and north of the first neighborhood, Robert Travis, Edward Jones, Sylvester Schutt, Jacob Schaffer, Jacob Stuber and Joseph Clark and their families settled. In the eastern part of the township, around Sharpsburg, Aaron Rood and wife and his sons, L. B. Rood and Alpha Rood, who were Yankees in every sense of the word; the Jones and Hall families and the families of Thomas Rockwell, Jacob and George Meyers and William Snyder—all of whom came from Butler County, Ohio—settled at an early date. In the same section of the township also settled John L. Fox, David Johnson, John Hedrick and Abraham Mott, Sr.—Abraham and James Z. Mott, sons of the last-named pioneer, still live in the township. The Lowry family came in at a later date and its representatives are still living in the township. Samuel Briner, Samuel Keller, David F. Blake (who went to Missouri in 1857), George Sigler, M. W. Diggs and George Painter were early settlers in the southern part of the township. Other early settlers were James Watkins, Daniel Brock and John McDaniel.

SCHOOLS.

It seems to be a settled fact that the older the country, the fewer the country schools. This is true in Gibson township to-day: The schools out-

side of the town of Fort Recovery are not as large as they were 35 years ago, when the writer had a very personal knowledge of them. Then there were six district schools, maintained on an average of eight or nine months in the year, and each one of these schools had an average attendance of not less than 50 pupils, and at least three had from 75 to 100 pupils each. At the present time it takes three of these same school districts combined to maintain one school, and this one with only about 30 pupils in attendance. The Board of Education think it both cheaper and better to hire a man to haul the pupils back and forth from their own district to a school in some other district than to hire teachers for each school district. Special school districts have been created that take the place of sub-districts.

SHARPSBURG

Is a small place in the southeast part of Gibson township, which for many years has had a general merchandise store, formerly owned and operated by George Zenz, but now conducted by his son John. There was a postoffice here, known as Violet, until it was displaced by the introduction of the rural free delivery of mail. St. Paul's Catholic Church is located here.

CHURCHES OF RECOVERY AND GIBSON TOWNSHIPS

With the exception of St. Joseph's Catholic Church at St. Joseph in Recovery township, St. Peter's Catholic Church at St. Peter in Recovery township, St. Paul's Catholic Church at Sharpsburg and Bethel Church of the Evangelical Church in the western part of Gibson township, all the churches in the two townships are located at Fort Recovery.

Pisgah Congregational Church at Fort Recovery was organized as a Presbyterian Church in 1851 by I. N. Taylor (founder of Liber College) and his father, Judge Taylor, of Fort Wayne, Indiana. It was reorganized in 1854 as Pisgah Congregational Church, which name it has since retained. The original society consisted of eight members, viz.: David Hays, Catherine Hays, Nancy Collins, Wateman Hastings, Eleanor Hastings, Samuel Briner, Elizabeth Grissom and Betsey Guy. The church has a present membership of 118 and an average Sunday-school attendance of 60. The church building was erected in 1883 at a cost of $4,000. The following pastors have served since the reorganization of the church in 1854: Rev. John Brice, from 1854 to 1856; Rev. M. W. Diggs, from 1857 to 1892; Rev. E. L. Brooks, from 1892 to 1899; Rev. John Howell, from 1899 to 1901; Rev. Charles A. Mohr, from 1901 to 1903; Rev. S. E. Snepp, from 1903 to 1905; and Rev. Vernon Emery, the present pastor, who has served since 1905.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Congregation at Fort Recovery was or-

ganized August 8, 1869, by 14 voting members, only one of whom, Philip Augenstein, of Fort Recovery, is still among the living. The first church structure, 30 by 40 feet in dimensions, erected in 1870, finally becoming too small for the growing congregation, the present brick church was erected in 1903 at a cost of $12,000. The parsonage, also a brick building, cost $4,000. Up to about 1895 the services were conducted exclusively in German but now English is used every other Sunday. The congregation at the present time has 68 voting members, 180 communicants and about 275 souls. The Sunday-school, which is conducted in English, has 120 scholars. The following pastors have served Trinity congregation: Revs. H. Kreuter, 1869-71; Carl Benzin, 1871-78; F. W. Franke, 1878-81; A. J. Feeger, 1881-86; George Wolf, 1887-90; A. A. Dapper, 1890-1900; W. F. Benzin, 1900-04; and William Emch, who has served since 1904.

The Fort Recovery Methodist Episcopal Church was established many years ago. The present church building, located on the north side of East Broadway, on a lot that was presented to the trustees of the church by Thomas Roop, was commenced in 1874 and finished in 1875. The church is a brick structure, 36 by 54 feet in dimensions. The building committee was composed of D. J. Roop, Eli Winter, Abraham Rantz, George R. McDaniel, J. H. Johnson, D. H. Richardson and J. S. Hoyt. The Methodist Episcopal Church at Erastus and Washington Chapel, both in Washington township, are served by the same pastor as the Fort Recovery church. The following are the names of the pastors from 1879 to the present time: Revs. W. S. Philpot, 1879; D. Carter, 1880; W. A. Robinson, 1881; L. H. Linsey, 1882; J. W. H. Morrison, 1883; Orlando Murlin, 1884; Lemuel Herbert, 1885-86; G. M. Hemphill, 1887-88; E. T. Dailey, 1889-90; Edwin D. Cook, 1891; R. B. Olive, 1892; B. W. Day, 1893-94; J. S. Snodgrass, 1895-96; J. A. Spyker, 1897-98; H. J. Jewett, 1899-1901; M. C. Wisely, 1902-03; J. V. Robinson, 1904; J. H. Smith, 1905; and J. H. Butler, the present pastor, who was appointed in 1906. The present membership of the three churches as reported is 194. The estimated value of the church property at the three places is $4,500, while the parsonage at Fort Recovery is valued at $1,000. There are Sunday-schools connected with each church, in which schools there are 35 officers and teachers and 245 scholars of all grades, with an average attendance of 137.

For the past five or six years there have been at Fort Recovery two societies of the Church of Christ, commonly called the Disciples' Church. A division in church matters in the original society resulted in the formation of a second society and at the present time there are two church buildings used by members of this denomination. The church building of the original society was erected and dedicated in 1889. It is a frame structure, 40 by

60 feet in dimensions, and cost $2,800. The first members of the church were: Washington Snyder, Lucretia Snyder, Sanford Warnock, John Eckenrode, Emma Eckenrode, J. C. F. McDaniel, Fannie McDaniel, Elizabeth Hedrick, Ida M. Hedrick, Sarah Hedrick, John Bennett, Martha Bennett, Wila Clark, Emma Clark, Elizabeth Cummins, Manda Hoke, Hattie Abraham and Mr. and Mrs. John Thompson. The church has 43 members at the present time. The Sunday-school has an attendance averaging from 40 to 75. The present pastor is Rev. J. A. Persinger. He was preceded by Rev. I. N. Sutton and he by Rev. A. J. Beard. Among the other pastors of this church have been the following: Revs. Joseph Harter, Samuel Armstrong, H. H. Hill, W. W. Harsass, D. W. Campbell, J. M. Smith, J. A. Randall and D. C. Call.

Bethel Church of the Evangelical Association is located in the western part of Gibson township. This class was organized in 1858, when it was known as the Stuber class, the members at that time being the following: George Stuber and family, Leonard Holstein and wife, John Orth and family, Philip Shaffer and family, Jacob Shaffer and family, Christian May and wife, Ludwig Heis and wife and William Christopher and wife. For many years these Christians held their religious services at private homes and later on in the schoolhouse. The present church edifice, which was also the first one, is a frame structure, erected in the year 1872 at a cost of about $1,200, including the ground. At this time the church was given the name of Bethel Church. Frederick Heis is the only member of the class now living that was a member when the church was built. The preaching at the present time is wholly in English and has been for a great many years. When the class was first organized, the services were all in German. The church has a present membership of 65 and an average Sunday-school attendance of 40. Delphos Mott is superintendent of the Sunday-school. The first minister of the church was Rev. George Glouse, who remained two years. His successors and the period of their services were as follows: Revs. Philip Swartz, two years; Edward Evans, two years; C. Uphouse, two years; Charles Shuh, two years; Enos Troyer, two years; Carl Schamo, one year; John Schomber, under whose supervision the church was built, two years; Charles Heim, two years; Frank Dill, one year; L. S. Fisher, three years; Henry Meyers, one year; Samuel Hoffenbert, two years; Elias Hostetter, two years; C. Rainy, two years; S. Rihneol, three years; J. M. Smith, two years; F. L. Snyder, three years; Charles Spangler, one year; P. L. Browns, two years; and John Rees, who is the present pastor.

The Catholic churches of the two townships, whose history will be given in another chapter, are as follows: Church of Mary, Help of Christians, at Fort Recovery; St. Joseph's Church, at St. Joseph, Recovery township; St.

Peter's Church, at St. Peter, Recovery township; and St. Paul's Church, at Sharpsburg, Gibson township.

FORT RECOVERY

Lies in both Recovery and Gibson townships, the dividing line being the Greenville treaty line, which marked the southern boundary of Mercer County, and the northern boundary of Darke County until 1849.

The village derives its name from the fort established here, on the site of St. Clair's defeat, by Gen. Anthony Wayne, in December, 1793. "It is historic ground, and the village stands at once a monument to the defeat of St. Clair and the victory of Wayne. Small though it is, it occupies a prominent place in American history, for with its name is associated the memory of that terrible, crushing defeat, which endangered the whole frontier, but rendered sacred the ground baptized in patriotic blood. It marks also the site of Fort Recovery, built by the army of General Wayne as a waymark along that trail, which led to crowning victory."

After Harmar's disastrous expedition into the Indian country, Congress conceived the idea of establishing a chain of posts in the Indian country between Fort Wayne and Fort Washington (Cincinnati), so as to awe and curb the Indians, as the only preventative of future hostilities. The command of the expedition was given to Gen. Arthur St. Clair, under whom was Maj.-Gen. Richard Butler. The army left Fort Washington in September, 1791, and proceeded to Ludlow's Station, six miles distant, where it remained until the 17th, when, being 2,300 strong, exclusive of militia, it moved northward and built Fort Hamilton on the Great Miami. The march was then continued to a point about 65 miles from Fort Washington, where Fort Jefferson was erected. On the 24th of October Fort Jefferson was left behind and the toilsome march through the wilderness begun. The succeeding events of this ill-starred expedition we will quote in the words of Judge Burnet, of Cincinnati:

"During this time a body of the militia, amounting to 300, deserted and returned to their homes. The supplies for the army being still in the rear, and the General entertaining fears that the deserters might meet and seize them for their own use, determined, very reluctantly, to send back the First Regiment for the double purpose of bringing up the provisions and, if possible of overtaking the arresting some of the deserters.

"Having made that arrangement, the army resumed its march, and, on the 3rd of November, arrived at a creek running to the southwest, which was supposed to be the St. Mary's, one of the principal branches of the Maumee, but was afterwards ascertained to be a branch of the Wabash. It being then late in the afternoon, and the army much fatigued by a laborious march,

they were encamped on a commanding piece of ground, having the creek in front.

"It was the intention of the General to occupy that position till the First Regiment, with the provisions, should come up. He proposed on the next day to commence a work of defence, agreeably to a plan concerted between himself and Major Ferguson, but he was not permitted to do either; for, on the next morning, November 4th, half an hour before sunrise, the men having been just dismissed from parade, an attack was made on the militia posted in front, who gave way and rushed back into camp, throwing the army into a state of disorder, from which it could not be recovered, as the Indians followed close at their heels. They were, however, checked a short time by the fire of the first line, but immediately a very heavy fire was commenced on that line, and in a few minutes it was extended to the second.

"In each case the great weight of the fire was directed to the center, where the artillery was placed, from which the men were frequently driven with great slaughter. In that emergency resort was had to the bayonet. Colonel Darke was ordered to make the charge with a part of the second line, which order was executed with spirit. The Indians instanty gave way, and were driven back several hundred yards, but for want of a sufficient number of riflemen to preserve the advantage gained, the enemy soon renewed their attack, and the American troops in turn were forced to give way.

"At that instant the Indians entered the American camp on the left, having forced back the troops stationed at that point. Another charge was then ordered and made by the battalions of Majors Butler and Clark with great success. Several other charges were afterwards made, and always with equal effect. These attacks, however, were attended with a heavy loss of men, and particularly of officers. In the charge made by the Second Regiment Major Butler was dangerously wounded, and every officer of that regiment fell, except three, one of whom was shot through the body. The artillery being silenced, and all the officers belonging to it killed, but Captain Ford, who was dangerously wounded, and half the army having fallen, it became necessary to gain the road, if possible, and make a retreat.

"For that purpose a successful charge was made on the enemy, as if to turn their right flank, but in reality to gain the road, which was effected. The militia then commenced to retreat, followed by the United States troops, Major Clark with his battalion covering the rear. The retreat, as might be expected, soon became a flight. The camp was abandoned, and so was the artillery, for the want of horses to remove it. The men threw away their arms and accoutrements, even after the pursuit had ceased, which was not continued for more than four miles. The road was almost covered with these articles for a great distance.

"All the horses of the General were killed and he was mounted on a broken-down pack-horse that could scarcely be forced out of a walk. It was, therefore, impossible for him to get forward in person, to command a halt, till regularity could be restored, and the orders which he dispatched by others for that purpose were wholly unattended to. The rout continued to Fort Jefferson, where they arrived about dark, 27 miles from the battle-ground. The retreat began at half-past 9 in the morning, and as the battle commenced half an hour before sunrise, it must have lasted three hours, during which time, with only one exception, the troops behaved with great bravery. This fact accounts for the immense slaughter which took place.

"Among the killed were Major-General Butler, Colonel Oldham, Major Ferguson, Major Hart and Major Clark. Among the wounded were Colonel Sargeant, the adjutant-general, Colonel Darke, Colonel Gibson, Major Butler and Viscount Malartie, who served in the character of an aid. In addition to these, the list of officers killed contained the names of Captains Bradford, Phelon, Kirkwood, Price, Van Swearingen, Tipton, Purdy, Smith, Piatt, Gaither, Crebbs and Newman; Lieutenants Spear, Warren, Boyd, McMath, Burgess, Kelso, Read, Little, Hopper and Lickins; also, Ensigns Cobb, Balch, Chase, Turner, Wilson, Brooks, Beatty and Purdy; also, Quartermasters Reynolds and Ward, Adjt. Anderson and Doc. Grasson. And in addition to the wounded officers whose names are mentioned above the official list contains the names of Captains Doyle, Truman, Ford, Buchanan, Darke and Hough; also of Lieutenants Greaton, Davidson, DeButts, Price, Morgan, McCrea, Lysle and Thompson; also Adjutants Whistler and Crawford, and Ensign Bines.

"The melancholy result of that disastrous day was felt and lamented by all who had sympathy for private distress or public misfortune.

"The only charge alleged by the General against his army was want of discipline, which they could not have acquired during the short time they had been in the service. That defect rendered it impossible, when they were thrown into confusion to restore them again to order, and is the chief reason why the loss fell so heavily on the officers. They were compelled to expose themselves in an unusual degree in their efforts to rally the men and remedy the want of discipline. In that duty the General set the example, though worn down by sickness and suffering under a painful disease. It was alleged by the officers that the Indians far outnumbered the American troops. That conclusion was drawn, in part, from the fact that they outflanked and attacked the American lines with great force, at the same time, on every side.

"When the fugitives arrived at Fort Jefferson, they found the First Regiment, which was just returning from the service on which it had been sent, without either overtaking the deserters or meeting the convoy of pro-

visions. The absence of that regiment at the time of battle was believed by some to be the cause of defeat. They supposed that had it been present the Indians would have been defeated, or would not have ventured an attack at the time they made it; but General St. Clair expressed great doubt on that subject. He seemed to think it uncertain, judging from the superior number of the enemy, whether he ought to consider the absence of that corps from the field of action as fortunate or otherwise. On the whole, he seemed to think it fortunate, as he very much doubted whether, if it had been in the action, the fortune of the day would have been changed; and if it had not, the triumph of the enemy would have been left destitute of the means of defence."

Another account of the battle, more graphic than the foregoing, is the one written by Major Denny, an officer of St. Clair's army, in his journal, which is as follows:

"The troops paraded this morning at the usual time, and had been dismissed from the lines but a few minutes, the sun not yet up, when the woods in front rung with the yells and fire of the savages. The poor militia, who were but 300 yards in front, had hardly time to return a shot—they fled into our camp. The troops were under arms in an instant, and a smart fire from the front line met the enemy. It was but a few minutes, however, until the men were engaged in every quarter. The enemy from the front filed off to the right and left, and completely surrounded the camp, killed and cut off nearly all the guards, and approached close to the lines. They advanced from one tree, log or stump, to another, under cover of the smoke of our fire. The artillery and musketry made a tremendous noise, but did little execution. The Indians seemed to brave everything, and when fairly fixed around us, they made no noise other than their fire, which they kept up very constant and which seldom failed to tell, although scarcely heard. Our left flank, probably from the nature of the ground, gave way first; the enemy got possession of that part of the encampment, but it being pretty clear ground, they were too much exposed and were soon repulsed. Was at this time with the General engaged toward the right; he was on foot and led the party himself that drove the enemy and regained our ground on the left. The battalions in the rear charged several times and forced the savages from their shelter, but they always turned with the battalions and fired upon them back; indeed they seemed not to fear anything we could do. They could skip out of reach of the bayonet and return, as they pleased. They were visible only when raised by a charge. The ground was literally covered with the dead. The wounded were taken to the center, where it was thought most safe, and where a great many, who had quit their posts unhurt, had crowded together. The General, with other officers, endeavored to rally these men, and twice they were taken out to the lines. It appeared as if the officers had been singled out, a very

great proportion fell, or were wounded and obliged to retire from the lines early in the action. General Butler was among the latter, as well as several others of the most experienced officers. The men, being thus left with few officers, became fearful, despaired of success, gave up the fight, and, to save themselves for the moment, abandoned entirely their duty and ground, and crowded in toward the center of the field, and no exertions could put them in any order even for defense; perfectly ungovernable. The enemy at length got possession of the artillery, though not until the officers were all killed but one, and he badly wounded, and the men almost all cut off, and not until the pieces were spiked. As our lines were deserted, the Indians contracted theirs until their shot centered from all points, and now meeting with little opposition, took more deliberate aim and did great execution. Exposed to a cross fire, men and officers were seen falling in every direction; the distress too of the wounded made the scene such as can scarcely be conceived; a few minutes longer, and a retreat would have been impracticable. The only hope left was, that perhaps the savages would be so taken up with the camp as not to follow. Delay was death; no preparation could be made; numbers of brave men must be left at a sacrifice; there was no alternative. It was past 9 o'clock when repeated orders were given to charge toward the road. The action had continued between two and three hours. Both officers and men seemed confounded, incapable of doing anything; they could not move until it was told that a retreat was intended. A few officers put themselves in front, the men followed, the enemy gave way, and perhaps not being aware of the design, we were for a few minutes left undisturbed. The stoutest and most active now took the lead, and those who were foremost in breaking the enemy's line were soon left behind. At the moment of the retreat, one of the few horses saved had been procured for the General; he was on foot until then; I kept by him, and he delayed to see the rear. The enemy soon discovered the movement and pursued, though not for more than four or five miles, and but few so far; they turned to share the spoil. Soon after the firing ceased, I was directed to endeavor to gain the front, and, if possible, to cause a short halt that the rear might get up. I had been on horseback from the first alarm, and well mounted; pushed forward, but met with so many difficulties and interruptions from the people, that I was two hours at least laboring to reach the front. With the assistance of two or three officers I caused a short halt, but the men grew impatient and would move on. I got Lieutenants Sedam and Morgan, with half a dozen stout men, to fill up the road and move slowly, I halted myself until the General came up. By this time the remains of the army had got somewhat compact, but in the most miserable and defenseless state. The wounded who came off left their arms in the field, and one-half the others threw theirs away on the retreat. The road for miles was covered

with fire-locks, cartridge boxes and regimentals. How fortunate that the pursuit was discontinued; a single Indian might have followed with safety upon either flank. Such a panic had seized the men, that I believe it would not have been possible to have brought any of them to engage again. In the afternoon Lieutenant Kearsey, with a detachment of the First Regiment, met us. This regiment, the only complete and best disciplined portion of the army, had been ordered back upon the road on the 31st of October. They were 30 miles from the battle-ground when they heard distinctly the firing of the cannon, were hastening forward and marched about nine miles, when met by some of the militia, who informed Major Hamtramck, the commanding officer, that the army was totally destroyed. The Major judged it best to send a subaltern to obtain some knowledge of things, and to return himself with the regiment to Fort Jefferson, eight miles back, and to secure at all events that post. He had made some arrangements, and as we arrived in the evening found him preparing again to meet us. Stragglers continued to come in for hours after we reached the fort."

Denny states that the whole loss was 37 officers and 593 privates killed and missing; 3 officers and 252 privates wounded.

From Fort Jefferson the retreat was continued to Fort Washington, as it was not considered possible to accommodate the army at the former place. The defeat of St. Clair drew upon his head "one loud and merciless outcry of abuse and even detestation" from all parts of the country.

* * *

In January, 1792, an expedition was sent from Fort Washington under General Wilkinson to bury the dead on the battle-ground and to bring off the valuable public property, which was reported to be still on the spot. Captain Buntin, a member of this party, afterwards addressed a letter to St. Clair, of which the following is an extract: "In my opinion those unfortunate men who fell into the enemy's hands with life were used with the greatest torture, having their limbs torn off; and the women have been treated with the most indecent cruelty, having stakes as thick as a person's arm driven through their bodies. The first I observed when burying the dead; and the latter was discovered by Colonel Sargeant and Dr. Brown. We found three whole carriages; the other five were so much damaged that they were rendered useless. By the General's orders pits were dug in different places, and all the dead bodies that were exposed to view or could be conveniently found (the snow being very deep) were buried."

* * *

St. Clair's battle-field was next visited in December, 1793, when Gen. Anthony Wayne, who had been appointed to the command of the American troops, to retrieve the disaster of November 4, 1791, and break the power of

the Indians, sent forward a detachment of troops to the battle-field from Fort Greenville, where he had arrived. The troops arrived on Christmas Day and pitched their tents on the battle-field. When the men went to lie down in their tents at night, they had to scrape the bones together and carry them out before they could make their beds. The next day holes were dug and the bones remaining above ground were buried; it is said that as many as 600 skulls were found among them. After this melancholy duty was performed, a fortification was built and named Fort Recovery. On its completion a company of artillery and one of riflemen were left as a garrison.

* * *

On the last day of June, 1794, a severe and bloody battle was fought under the walls of Fort Recovery between a detachment of American troops, consisting of 90 riflemen and 50 dragoons, under the command of Major McMahon, and a very numerous body of Indians and British, who at the same instant rushed on the detachment and assailed the fort on every side with great fury. They were repulsed with a heavy loss, but again rallied and renewed the attack, keeping up a heavy and constant fire during the whole day, which was returned with spirit and effect by the garrison. The next morning, McMahon's detachment having entered the fort after sustaining a severe loss, the enemy renewed the attack and continued it with great desperation during the day, but were ultimately compelled to retreat from the field. In this engagement, 22 officers and non-commissioned officers of the American forces were killed, while 30 were wounded. The losses of the Indians, of whom there were present from 1,500 to 2,000, were very heavy. Captain Gibson, who commanded the fort, and after whom the township of Gibson took its name, behaved with great gallantry. It was supposed that the British engaged in the attack expected to find the artillery that was lost on the fatal 4th of November, which had been hid in the ground and covered with logs by the Indians in the vicinity of the battle-field. Fortunately, most of it had been previously found by its legitimate owners, and was then employed in the defense of the fort.

* * *

All of St. Clair's cannon were subsequently recovered by Wayne but one, which was found, some 40 years after the battle, buried in the mud near the mouth of the creek. This piece, a 6-pounder, was sold to a volunteer artillery company at Cincinnati for $60.

The remains of Major McMahon and his companions, who fell at the time of the attack on the fort, were buried within its walls. In 1838, soon after the town of Fort Recovery was laid out, Robert G. Blake discovered their remains. The bones were disinterred and reburied in the village ceme-

tery. In this work Mr. Blake was assisted by Dr. J. S. Fair, D. Freeman, David Beardslee, Henry Lipps and others.

The fort stood in the northwest part of the town. All that remains of it to perpetuate its memory is a portion of the flag-staff, which was exhumed about 1880 and some years later sent to Columbus, where it now reposes in the relic room of the Capitol Building.

* * *

On July 7, 1851, John S. Rhodes and David J. Roop, while searching for bullets on the site of the old battle-field, discovered a human skull, partly covered, in one of the streets of the town, adjacent to the ground upon which the fort stood. Recent, heavy rains had washed off the earth. The discovery induced a search, which resulted in the skeletons of some 60 persons being exhumed in a good state of preservation. The citizens of Fort Recovery held a meeting the next day, and resolved to reinter the bones, a committee being appointed to make suitable arrangements for the occasion.

This committee, consisting of William McDowell, Henry Lipps, Benjamin Cummins, Thomas Roop and David Beardslee selected Wednesday, September 10, 1851, as a suitable time and public notice of this action was duly given.

On Saturday, August 30, 1851, a mass meeting of the citizens of Mercer and adjoining counties, who felt disposed to participate in the solemnities of the reinterment of the remains of those who fell on the battle-ground of Fort Recovery, was held at the Court House in Celina, to make suitable arrangements to join their fellow-citizens of Fort Recovery on that occasion. The meeting organized by appointing Benjamin Linzee, chairman, and A. P. J. Snyder, secretary. Upon the object of the meeting being stated, F. C. Le Blond, William L. Blocher and John S. Brown were appointed a committee to draft resolutions, which in due time were reported by them and were as follows:

That the recent discovery of the remains of those brave worthies who fell in defense of their country at Fort Recovery, on the 4th of November, 1791, call loudly for some act of gratitude on the part of American citizens that will perpetuate their memory in the hearts of the present and future generations; therefore

Resolved, That we highly approve the course pursued by our fellow-citizens of Fort Recovery in the prompt arrangements they have commenced to reinter those remains.

Resolved, That all of us who can possibly go will attend and participate in the ceremonies of that occasion.

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this meeting, it would not only be an act of justice to the departed, but an act of duty on the part of the American Congress, to appropriate a sum of money sufficient to erect a suitable monument, in honor of the heroes of that memorable battle.

Resolved, That, for the purpose of carrying out the above resolutions, we hereby earnestly request our Senators and Members of Congress from this State to use their best exertions in procuring such an appropriation.

A committee of 11 was appointed to make suitable arrangements for the conveyance of those who wished to participate in the ceremonies at Fort Recovery.

The morning of the 10th of September, 1851, was clear, bright and warm and as the sun rose and cast his beams over the plain, made sacred by the blood of that brave band, every avenue leading to the village was so crowded that by 10 o'clock the concourse of citizens from Mercer, Darke, Preble and other counties in Ohio, and Jay, Adams, Wells, Randolph, and other counties in Indiana, assembled on the battle-ground was not less than 5,000.

The forepart of the day was occupied in placing the bones in 13 large, black walnut coffins, provided by the committee, which had been made by Robert G. Blake and John S. Rhodes; a large box containing 10 bushels was also filled. The number of coffins was set at 13, because there were 13 States in the Union at the time the battle was fought, and in all human probability every State was represented in that battle. While the coffins were being filled, the people were permitted to examine the bones, many of which bore marks of the bullet and tomahawk.

Officers of the day having been appointed by the committee on arrangements, a procession was formed at 10 o'clock under the direction of the marshal, James Watson Riley, and his aids, as follows:

I. Martial music.
II. Soldiers of the Revolutionary and subsequent wars.
III. One hundred and four pall-bearers, in charge of the 13 coffins containing the bones of the deceased of St. Clair's Army.
IV. The ladies.
V. The orator of the day.
VI. The officers of the day—president, vice-presidents and secretaries.
VII. Citizens and visitors who were willing to join the procession.

The procession thus formed, constituting a column a mile long, passed through the streets of the village to a grove southeast of the battle-ground, where an oration was pronounced by Hon. Bellamy Storer, of Cincinnati, who had been invited for the occasion. At the conclusion of the address, Hiram Bell, of Darke County, president of the day, spoke, being followed by Abner Haines, of Preble County, of the committee on resolutions, who reported a series of resolutions, urging Congress to appropriate money to erect a monument at Fort Recovery and one at Fort Greenville. The report was received and unanimously adopted. Committees composed of citizens of the different counties represented were appointed to solicit subscriptions for the furtherance of that object. Benjamin Linzee, James Watson Riley, H. F. Juneman and two others were appointed on the part of Mercer County.

The procession was then reformed in the order that it came to the stand,

and moved to the burying-ground on the south side of the village, where the remains were returned to the earth with proper ceremonies, the coffins being deposited in one grave. The last act being performed, the people left the graveyard, each satisfied that he had done nothing more than his duty, willing to do more if possible. It is true they could not benefit those dry bones, but their history is the foundation of our history; their destruction kindled afresh the patriotic fire that burned in the bosoms of our fathers, and incited a Wayne to deeds of noble daring in the Northwest.

Gen. Lewis Cass, General Butler and George E. Pugh, Esq., had also been invited to speak on the occasion, but none of them was able to be present.

* * *

In 1891 a centennial celebration was held at Fort Recovery in commemoration of the battle of November 4, 1791. The following was invited to be present to address the people but not all were present: Hon. John Sherman, Hon. Calvin S. Brice, Hon. F. S. Sessions, Hon. J. E. Campbell, Hon. William McKinley, Hon. John Brown (Governor of Kentucky), Hon. C. M. Anderson, Hon. D. J. Ryan, Hon. M. D. Shaw, Hon. M. K. Gantz, Hon. Samuel F. Hunt and Gens. William Gibson, E. B. Findlay and J. P. S. Shank. Of those present, Hon. James E. Campbell, Governor of Ohio, Hon. Samuel F. Hunt, of Cincinnati and Gen. E. B. Findlay, of Bucyrus, Ohio, addressed the gathering, as well as some others. At this centennial celebration the remains of the soldiers, which had been buried in the old cemetery in the southwest part of town in 1851, were taken up and removed to a plat of ground that was purchased for the purpose of erecting a monument thereon, should Congress ever make an appropriation for such purpose. Here the bones were reinterred and a temporary wooden monument erected thereon, which stood for a number of years and was then torn down and destroyed.

* * *

The part of the town of Fort Recovery lying north of the Greenville treaty line was laid out by David Beardslee in 1836, the plat being recorded on July 30th. At a later date Larkin & McDaniel laid out the part of the town south of the treaty line. The town was incorporated June 15, 1858, under the name of Recovery, 50 citizens signing the petition for incorporation. It is the oldest village corporation in the county. The Wabash River flows through the northern part of the village, from east to west. The town has one railroad—the Lake Erie & Western.

Among the earliest residents of Fort Recovery were John Simison and family, who in the spring of 1817 came here and moved into the trading house, which had been built by David Conner. Mr. Simison farmed the ground upon which the town is built, while his sons provided meat by hunt-

ing. His daughter Mary married Peter Studabaker, on February 15, 1821, at Fort Recovery. Mr. Studabaker farmed here about 12 years and then removed to Adams County, Ohio.

David and Obed Beardsley were pioneers at Fort Recovery; the former laid out the town north of the treaty line. Henry Lipps, who came to the county in 1830 and helped lay out the town, was the first hotelkeeper here and a leading light of the town; he was a member of the Ohio Legislature in 1849. John Lipps came to the county in 1832 and associated himself with the growth of the village. William McDaniel came here at an early date and with Mr. Larkin laid out that part of the town south of the treaty line. His son, George R. McDaniel, is still a resident of the town, where he has lived all his life and for many years has been engaged in the banking business. Thomas Roop took up his residence at Fort Recovery at a very early date. John Blake and family were pioneers here. The family consisted of Robert G., John G., David F., Perry W., Samuel, Rebecca, Mary Jane and Margaret Ann. Perry W. Blake, who resides in Paulding County, Ohio, is the only one of the boys now living. Margaret Ann resides at present at Celina. The Blakes were prominent in all that pertained to the early history of the town. Dr. J. S. Fair, who came here in pioneer days, was the first physician ever in practice at Fort Recovery. Dr. John Conant Richardson, one of the town's first doctors, settled here in 1843. The entire period of the practice of his profession was spent at Fort Recovery. Dr. D. Milligan came to Fort Recovery at an early day when a young man in years; he was considered one of the best physicians the town ever had; he also became interested in banking. Capt. John Stafford Rhodes came to Fort Recovery April 12, 1844, and is still a resident, being now in his 81st year. Jacob Morningstar was the town's first blacksmith; he settled here in 1848. Anthony Sonderman, the pioneer wagon-maker of the village, located here with his family about 1850; the Sondermans have ever since been identified with the town's business affairs. A tannery was established here in 1864 by William Koch, now president of the Fort Recovery Stirrup Company. John, Lewis and George Oswald were all merchants of the town in early times.

The first gas-well at Fort Recovery was struck on March 28, 1887, and was appropriately named "Mad Anthony." The bore was 510 feet deep, when the flow commenced.

The present village officials of Fort Recovery are as follows: Mayor, John A. Hunter; clerk, B. B. Wilson; treasurer, Adam Beach; marshal, Joseph Sutherland; council—Edward Koch, George H. Lord, Edward Hoke, O. E. Denny, Charles Schneider and James Hedrick; Board of Public Affairs —M. W. Birkheimer (president), William J. Reichard and Nicholas Money —James Ross, clerk. I. N. Medford is postmaster. John Clark, John Isen-

hart and E. T. Hastings are the trustees of Green Mound and Spring Hill cemeteries, the last named being secretary. The Town Hall, a two-story, brick building, erected in 1879, stands near where the old fort was located. The village has a public park, set aside for this purpose some years ago. Three large cannons and a number of shells, presented to the village shortly after the late war with Spain, have been placed here. The village had a population of 802 in 1880; 1,186 in 1890; and 1,097 in 1900.

The churches of Fort Recovery have been noticed earlier in this chapter. In 1854 Robert G. Blake built the first schoolhouse; an addition to this, 25 feet square, was built in 1859. On May 28, 1868, the citizens voted an appropriation of $5,000 for building a new schoolhouse. The structure was located at Broadway and Elm streets, and cost when completed $8.000. The present public school building was erected in 1888-89 at a cost of $25,000. It is a two-story, eight-room brick structure. Eight teachers are employed. James Ross has been superintendent of the village schools since 1898. Mrs. J. A. Hunter is principal of the High School, which has an enrollment of 57 pupils and ranks as first grade. Fort Recovery also has an excellent Catholic parochial school.

Fort Recovery ranks as one of the most progressive towns in the county and its business interests are worthy of mention. The leading manufacturing establishment is the factory of the Fort Recovery Stirrup Company, the largest exclusive manufacturers of wood stirrups in the world. The company was organized in 1899; William Koch is president and Edward Koch, secretary and manager. Other wood-working establishments are the Rimel spoke works, the planing-mill of William E. Wilson (dealer in lumber, building materials and coal), the band sawmill of George A. Reuter and the excelsior factory of Noah P. Huntwork. The town has two gristmills—the St. Clair mill and the mill conducted by John Remanklus; the Jay grain elevator; and the flour exchange of William Heiby. Will Hull operates a brickyard. John Schindler has a large blacksmithing business and also builds wagons and carriages. The town has two livery barns, run by John Isenhart and William Lowry. Charles Schneider is proprietor of the Wayne Hotel. A. A. Kolp is publisher and editor of the Fort Recovery *Journal*, a weekly, independent newspaper, which was established in 1890. The private banking business conducted for many years by George P. McDaniel was incorporated January 1, 1907, as the Fort Recovery Banking Company. The Fort Recovery Building and Loan Association is a prosperous concern; George A. Reuter is secretary. The Fort Recovery Telephone Company is owned and controlled by Fort Recovery business men. The leading mercantile establishments are those of Russell M. Morvelius and Krenning & Son, dry goods; Frank J. Sonderman & Company, dry goods and clothing;

FRONT OF THE STORE BEFORE THE EXPLOSION

TWO REAR VIEWS OF THE STORE

SCENES OF THE DESTRUCTIVE DYNAMITE EXPLOSION IN MEINERDING'S HARDWARE STORE AT FORT RECOVERY, OCTOBER 17, 1906

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH, CELINA

August Stelzer, dry goods and groceries; George Gagle (successor to W. F. Pausch), John Fisher, Roesner & Lenhart and Jacob Anthony, groceries; Joseph A. Meinerding, hardware and farming implements; Michael Velten, hardware and harness; Adam Beach, boots and shoes; Edward Hoke, jewelry; John Adams, drugs; and E. T. Adams, who conducts a variety store. W. H. Lowry is an extensive buyer and shipper of live-stock, and is also engaged in road contracting. Fort Recovery has one attorney, J. A. Hunter, who is serving his second term as mayor; five physicians—Drs. J. V. Richardson, W. C. Robeson, William R. Taylor, Martyn Taylor and J. M. Buchannan; one dentist, Dr. C. A. Brown; and one veterinary surgeon, Frederick Miller.

Fort Recovery has two Masonic bodies, two Odd Fellow bodies and a G. A. R. post. Fort Recovery Lodge, No. 539, Free and Accepted Masons, was granted a charter at a session of the Grand Lodge held at Cincinnati, October 21, 1885. The charter members of the lodge were 19 in number, as follows: John S. Rhodes, J. S. Clum, Jacob Dumbauld, James Thompson, Charles L. Townsend, Samuel A. Nickerson, Joshua Armstrong, Charles Armstrong, Isaac N. Hanna, James H. Johnson, W. K. Kember, J. E. Gooding, William B. Doner, J. A. Doner, W. J. Reichard, T. J. Godfrey, D. S. Skinner, William F. McDaniel and A. G. Clark. The officers named at the time of the granting of the charter were: T. J. Godfrey, W. M.; John S. Rhodes, S. W.; and James H. Johnson, J. W. The first elected officers, for the year 1886, were: John S. Rhodes, W. M.; James H. Johnson, S. W.; and Isaac N. Hanna, J. W. Isaac N. Hanna was worshipful master in 1887 and 1891; J. S. Clum, in 1888, 1889, 1890 and 1892; W. P. McDaniel, 1893; George A. Reuter, from 1894 to 1905, inclusive; and William E. Wilson, in 1906. The present officers are as follows: B. B. Wilson, W. M.; I. N. Medford, S. W.; James Ross, J. W.; Joshua Armstrong, treasurer; and C. A. Brown, secretary. The lodge has a membership of 68.—Wayne Chapter No. 111, Order of the Eastern Star, was instituted November 7, 1899, with the following charter members: E. L. McDaniel, Minnie McDaniel, O. E. Denny, Tillie Denny, Jennie Denny, Nora Fox, John S. Rhodes, Jennie Rhodes, Kate Lowry, Fannie Whitesell, Elizabeth Heap, Ollie Clark, William E. Wilson, Ella Wilson, Nora Taylor, Sallie Louden, Stella Wallingsford, S. E. Sauntman, Lillie Dumbauld, Jennie Rantz and Lizzie Boesche. The following were the first officers: Tillie Denny, worthy matron; E. L. McDaniel, worthy patron; Nora Fox, associate matron; Jennie Rhodes, secretary; Kate Lowry, treasurer; Minnie McDaniel, conductress; Fannie Whitesell, associate conductress; Elizabeth Heap, chaplain; Ollie Clark and O. E. Denny, marshals; Ella Wilson, Ada; Jennie Denny, Ruth; Nora Taylor, Esther; Sallie Louden, Martha; Stella Wallingsford, Electa; S. E. Saunt-

man, warden; and William E. Wilson, sentinel. The chapter has a present membership of 55. The officers for the year 1907 are as follows: Jennie Denny, worthy matron; B. B. Wilson, worthy patron; Nora Taylor, associate matron; Verna McDaniel, secretary; Lillie Dumbauld, treasurer; Annie Medford, conductress; Winnie Ross, associate conductress; Tillie Denny, chaplain; Carrie Young, marshal; Zura Roop, Ada; Ella Wilson, Ruth; Jennie Rhodes, Esther; Ida Denny, Martha; Lizzie Boesche, Electa; Ollie Clark, warden; and W. E. Wilson, sentinel.

Fort Recovery Lodge, No. 458, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was established in the '70's. The first officers were Joseph Smith, N. G.; J. S. Clum, V. G.; J. W. Blizzard, secretary; and William Snyder, treasurer. The lodge has a present membership of 93. The officers for 1907 are as follows: Clarence Whitesell, N. G.; Harvey Engle, V. G.; A. E. Gilbert, treasurer; Harley Brumm, recording secretary; and Wesley Schemenaur, financial secretary.—Mystic Union Rebekah Lodge, No. 218, was organized in 1887 with the following charter members: Russell M. Morvelius, Minnie Morvelius, L. H. Boesche, Lizzie Boesche, James Thompson, Susie Thompson, John Hedrick, Elizabeth Hedrick, Mary Hedrick, J. P. Dearworth, Abbie Dearworth, Zora Hanna, R. H. Campbell, Lydia Campbell, Sarah J. Rhodes, W. H. Robins, Emily Robins, Sam. W. Buck, Emma Buck, Charles H. Lord, Emma Lord, Alonzo Ford, Sol. McGriff and William L. Lundy. The lodge has 58 members at the present time. The following are the officers for 1907: Ida Howard, N. G.; Pearl Stoner, V. G.; Elma Rapp, secretary; and Ada Reef, treasurer.

Harrod-McDaniel Post, No. 181, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized December 26, 1881, with the following members: Isaac N. Hanna, John S. Rhodes, George Hedrick, George R. McDaniel, John Jones, Theodore Scheid, James H. Johnson, Samuel A. Nickerson, J. C. Clum, John Slife, George Lipps, Eli Frazee, John McFarland, H. H. Harrison, J. E. McDaniel, J. H. Adams, Sam. W. Buck, James Jenkins, William Denny, W. F. McDaniel, I. W. Isenhart, W. W. Collins, W. I. Latimer, C. P. Dearworth and I. N. O'Neal. The first commander of the post was Capt. John S. Rhodes. The officers at the present time are: I. N. Medford, commander; Fred Holl, senior vice-commander; Theodore Scheid, junior vice-commander; Eli T. Hastings, adjutant; Daniel Kessler, quartermaster; O. S. Greene, chaplain; Frank Bushard, officer of the day; and Fred Heiss, officer of the guard. The post has 24 members.

* * *

The worst disaster that ever befell a community in Mercer County occurred at Fort Recovery at 11 o'clock A. M., on Wednesday, October 17, 1906, when a terrific explosion in the rear of Joseph A. Meinerding's hard-

ware store caused the death of five persons, brought injuries to scores of others and inflicted a property loss of approximately $50,000. Just after the parade of the annual horse show, then being held here, took place, the whole town was shaken by a deafening explosion, which entirely wrecked the two-story building occupied by Joseph A. Meinerding as a hardware store, the *Journal* printing office, the Roop blacksmith shop and a dwelling in the rear of the Opera House. The wreckage soon caught fire and for a time it looked as though the entire business section would be destroyed. Only by the hardest work and with the assistance furnished from Portland, Indiana, and Coldwater were the flames subdued. The fire damaged the Schneider and Setter buildings, the Lowry livery stable, the bank building, the B. W. Roop dwelling and other surrounding property. All the glass in the business blocks, as well as in nearby dwellings, was smashed, and not a single window in the Catholic Church, two blocks away, remained unbroken. Five victims of the explosion were killed outright or died before evening, namely: Miss Cleo Weis, Henry Lammers, Joseph Rosener, Charles Wagner and John McMillan; the first four were employed in the hardware store and the last named, a farmer, of Monterey, was in the store with his wife, making purchases; Mrs. McMillan miraculously escaped very serious injury. A dozen or 15 received serious injuries, and many more were slightly injured or had narrow escapes. While a quantity of explosives, including 15 to 20 pounds of dynamite, was stored in the rear room of the store, it is not thought that the dynamite caused the explosion, as its force was upward instead of downward. It may have resulted from the formation of gas somewhere about the rear of the store. The funerals of the victims were held on Friday, October 19th, when all places of business were closed, the day being given over to mourning. Four views of the disaster are shown in this book.

CHAPTER VII

GRANVILLE, MARION AND FRANKLIN TOWNSHIPS

GRANVILLE TOWNSHIP

Was organized June 5, 1837, at which time it comprised only that part of the present township lying north of the Greenville treaty line, which was originally a part of Recovery township. The portion south of the treaty line, constituting about two-fifths of the township, did not become a part of Granville township until 1849. The first election was held on June 26, 1837, at the house of John Wright. The first township officers are said to have been James Grant, justice of the peace; William Franklin, constable; and John Wright, clerk. The present township officers are as follows: Trustees —Henry Uhlenhake, Joseph Osterfeld and William Evers; clerk, H. A. Beckman; treasurer, Henry Gottemoller; justice of the peace, Joseph J. Schlosser.

The township is bounded on the north by Butler township, on the east by Marion township, on the south by Darke County and on the west by Gibson and Recovery townships. It is practically six miles square; the southern and western lines are slightly irregular. The surface of the township is generally low and level, with an extended basin in the central eastern portion, known as Cranberry Prairie. This prairie was originally something of a marsh but in the years since the settlement of the township it has undergone a wonderful change. The dredging of the Wabash River, which cost many thousands of dollars, has reclaimed all this waste land, which has become the finest farming section of the township. In this locality the Wabash River begins to assume an important aspect; its source is some distance west, on the line between Darke and Mercer counties in the Hog Prairie, which at the present time is all farm land. The land of Granville township is highly productive and is in an advanced state of cultivation. All kinds of grain are grown in abundance, but the soil is best suited to the rais-

ing of corn. In 1881 this township had 10,452 acres of arable land; 438 acres of meadow land; and 13,325 acres of woodland. In 1906 there were 13,179 acres of land under cultivation, 2,624 acres of pasture land, 3,891 acres of woodland and 1,829 acres of waste land. Nearly all the original woodland has been cleared and is now under cultivation. Farms of 40 and 80 acres extent predominate; some men own farms of 160 acres, and Judge Dwyer, of Dayton, Ohio, owns over 400 acres of the Cranberry Prairie, all in one farm, but these are exceptions to the rule. One of the first gas-wells in the county was drilled on the Cranberry Prairie, on land owned by Judge Dwyer, and a good supply of gas was found. Afterwards a large gas territory was opened up in Mercer County, which supplied Dayton, Troy, Piqua and other towns with gas for fuel and light for a number of years.

Granville township to-day can boast of being one of the best townships in the county, as well as being one of the largest and wealthiest. Few farms are encumbered by debt. The farmers in this township take pride in having the best stock that money will buy and as a class are industrious and economical. Well-kept and cultivated farms are seen everywhere; good farm residences and barns are found on nearly all the farms. Thrift is indicated in the neatness of the home surroundings. Good gravel roads are on every hand. The township is crossed by the Cincinnati Northern Railroad, with stations at St. Henry and Burkettsville, thus affording ample shipping facilities. The free rural delivery of mail has been well established in this township and communication by telephone is general throughout the community. The inhabitants as a rule have always been and are now, either German or of German descent. The German people have *made* this section of the county, transforming it from a wilderness to scores upon scores of productive farms, all under a high state of cultivation. They own nearly all the land. The population of Granville township was 1,616 in 1880, 2,013 in 1890 and 2,329 in 1900.

Granville township has none but Roman Catholic churches, of which there are four, namely: St. Henry's at St. Henry; St. Bernard's at Burkettsville; St. Wendelin's at Wendelin; and St. Francis's, located near the settlement of Cranberry Prairie. The history of these churches will be found in another chapter of this work. Good school buildings, both public and parochial, have been provided for the education of the children. The first public school in the township is said to have been taught by William Franklin.

PIONEERS.

William Simison, a child of the forest, was born in Mercer County, Ohio, May 22, 1827, being a son of John Simison, who located at Fort Recovery in 1817. William Simison was long a resident of Granville township and served as constable two years. His grandfather, William Price,

was with Gen. Arthur St. Clair in his defeat at Fort Recovery on November 4, 1791, and afterwards was a soldier under Gen. Anthony Wayne. Mr. Simison's youth was passed amid the exciting scenes of pioneer hardships. He frequently sold his furs to traders in Piqua, and took his pay in hogs, some of them escaping while driving them home. The killing of deer was an ordinary sport, and it created no terror in him to hear the howling of wolves, as he wended his way through the forests a distance of 40 miles to pay a visit to his future companion for life. On one occasion he was compelled to borrow a pair of pants to go home in, his own, which had been used to fill a crack in a log cabin to keep the wolves out, having been torn to shreds.

Among the earliest settlers of Granville township, in and around St. Henry, were the families of Henry, Bernard and James Romer, all of whom settled here when the township was an unbroken wilderness. Henry Bruns and his wife came to the county in 1827 and settled in this township; their son, Bernard Bruns, was an infant at the time; Henry Beckman was a pioneer business man of Granville township as early as 1839. The descendants of the Bruns, Beckman and Romer families are numerous throughout the township and represent the leading business interests of St. Henry and Granville township to-day. There is scarcely an industry in St. Henry that has not connected with it a member of one of the above named families. Christian Stelzer settled in the township in 1833; his son Casper was born here December 25, 1837. William J. Stetcher has lived here since 1859; his parents, Casper Stetcher and wife, came here in 1833. J. B. Drahman settled here in 1836. Joseph Robbins, an early pioneer of this township, was born in Alsace, France, and settled in Mercer County in 1839. John E. Uhlenhake settled here in 1844 and George A. Mueller, in 1846, while John Shaner came to this section in 1848. Sebastian Gebele settled here in 1849 and Harman Savert in 1854. The Hemmelgarn family came to the township at an early date and located near the settlement of Cranberry Prairie. Joseph Rammel was another early settler of German nativity. Of the English-speaking people who settled in Granville township, Alexander Grant, James Grant, William Franklin, Landon Bennett, John Wright, H. E. Franklin, Lot Timbrell, James Dunwoody and Nathaniel Hewitt were among the first settlers. These and many others came to Granville township in an early day and helped to subdue the wilderness. Their descendants are now enjoying the results of their labors.

ST. HENRY.

In the northern part of Granville township is located the thriving and prosperous village of St. Henry, which was laid out by Henry Romer in 1837,

the plat being recorded on July 13th. The Romer, Beckman and Bruns families have been intimately connected with its history from the very start. Henry Bruns built the second cabin and started a blacksmithing business, which in later years grew to be an important industry of the town. Henry Beckman was also an early business man here. Joseph B. Drahman formerly conducted a harness shop and general store at this place. The town had a population of about 200 in 1880 and was credited with 682 inhabitants in 1890. It has over 1,000 at the present time. It was incorporated in 1901. The present officers of the town are: Mayor, George A. W. Schlosser; clerk, William H. Romer; treasurer, Joseph J. Romer; marshal, John Gardner; council—J. Henry Hartings, Henry Wimmers, Sebastian Ranley, Bernard K. Kessens, Edward Bellert and Henry Tumbusch. H. J. Anthony is superintendent of the village schools of St. Henry; the High School department ranks as second-grade and has 25 pupils. The Cincinnati Northern Railroad passes through the town and the prospects are good for an electric road passing through St. Henry in the near future. St. Henry's Catholic Church, located here, is one of the largest and finest in the county. The parochial school is also one of the best attended in this section.

St. Henry is surrounded by a fine agricultural country and is a trading place for a very considerable district. It has quite a number of flourishing industries, including among which is the South Mercer Flouring Mills, operated by steam power, which are owned by B. G. Plummer. Among other manufacturing concerns of the town we may mention the Bany Washing Machine Company, the Conover Creamery Company, St. Henry Canning Company (canners and packers of vegetables and fruits); Sebastian Ranley, wagon and carriage manufacturing—also dealer in coal; and Wimmers & Wuebker, manufacturers of tile, brick and cement blocks. The St. Henry Bank, which was organized January 5, 1906, on the individual responsibility plan, is an important addition to the town's business interests. It possesses assets totaling over $135,000. John Henry Romer is president; Henry Romer, vice-president and assistant cashier; and William H. Romer, cashier. The mercantile interests of the place are ably represented by the following firms: B. Forsthoefel, Joseph Bruns and Joseph John Romer, general stores; Westerheide & Romer, millinery; St. Henry Hardware Company and A. Schuerman, hardware and farm implements; Beckman & Gottemoller, stoves, tinware, tin roofing, etc.; B. J. Lammers and C. C. Siegrist, harness; Ed. J. Schmitz, patent medicines, jewelry, books, etc.; F. H. Gottemoller, furniture and undertaking; Bernard Bertke, West End Hotel; Buschore & Sunderhaus, livery barn; The P. Kuntz & Herr Lumber Company, lumber and building materials, represented by J. J. Moeller; William F. Bruns and L. Gebele, barbers; Louis Kothman, Henry Kevelder and Frank Saunderhaus,

liquors; Dr. H. G. Glew, dentist; and Drs. J. A. Schirack and J. J. Mory, physicians and surgeons.

BURKETTSVILLE.

This village is located on the southern line of Granville township and is a station on the Cincinnati Northern Railroad. It was laid out in November, 1876, by Bernard Romer, Jr., Edward Frummel, William Sutherland and Jackson Galder. It was incorporated in 1901, and at the present time has these officials: Mayor, S. S. Erhart; clerk, Elzy Branham; treasurer, J. A. Wehrling; marshal, Joseph Flayler; council—J. W. Birt, George Vandenbosch, John Dresher, Joseph Balmert, J. B. Hemmelgarn and L. B. Jones. Frank Birt is postmaster. Dr. Inman is the only physician. There are two schools. One in conducted in English in a two-room, brick schoolhouse by two teachers. The other, a German school, is in charge of one teacher and is taught in a frame schoolhouse. St. Bernard's Catholic Church is located here, also the Novitiate of the Fathers of the Most Precious Blood. The leading business interests of the village are as follows: The grain elevator of S. S. Erhart, tile plant of Aaron Jones, slack barrel factory of Dunn & Company and the general stores of J. W. Birt and Joseph Franks. J. A. Wehrling is proprietor of the village hotel, while J. H. Stimke and Nic. Cordonelia conduct blacksmith shops. The population of the village in 1900 was 230, but it is now considerably larger.

CRANBERRY PRAIRIE AND WENDELIN

Are small settlements of Granville township—the former near the eastern boundary and the latter on the western line. Each has a Catholic Church. At Cranberry Prairie, B. J. Bertke has a general store, while Joseph Doner conducts a blacksmith shop.

MARION TOWNSHIP

Was organized with the county, being one of the four original townships, but at that time it did not include the portion of the township lying south of the Greenville treaty line, which was not added until 1849. With its present boundaries, it contains about 40 square miles and is the largest township in the county, as well as one of the wealthiest and oldest. Roughly, the township is a parallelogram with the greatest length north and south, the only material divergence from a regular geometrical figure being the triangular piece that juts out from the southeast corner. With this exception, the township is six miles wide from east to west and over six and a half miles long from north to south. It is bounded on the north by Franklin township, on

the east by Auglaize County, on the south by Darke County and on the west by Granville and Butler townships. In 1881 there were 13,342 acres of arable land, 291 acres of meadow land and 11,100 acres of woodland. In 1906 the total valuation of lands and buildings in the township, as returned to the county auditor by the township assessor, was $654,065, which was far below the actual value. The population in 1880 was 1,933; in 1890, 2,525; and in 1900, 2,678.

The first election was held on June 25, 1833, at the house of Mathew Kearns, at which time the following officers were elected: Trustees—Samuel Gray, Charles Botkin and John Miller; clerk, John L. Simes; treasurer, John Sprague; overseers of the poor—Mathew Kearns and Alexander Gillaspie; fence viewers—William Botkin, John Davis and Hugh Miller. The present township officers are as follows: Trustees—Benjamin Evers, Fred. Bertke and Fred. Schroeder; clerk, John P. Hartings; treasurer, Joseph Hierholzer; justice of the peace, H. S. Shaffer. The township for school purposes is divided into 10 sub-districts; for election purposes it is divided into two voting precincts, called East and West voting precincts. In 1880 the township cast 437 votes for president; 20 years later the votes for president amounted to 600.

The township is not cut up by any large streams of water. Chickasaw Creek, Little Beaver and Burnt Wood creeks all flow into the Great Reservoir, passing through portions of Marion and Franklin townships. This was the first township in the county to begin the building of gravel roads. It kept on with the work until the whole township is now supplied with the very best roads to be found in the county. There has been a steady improvement in all that goes to make a well-improved agricultural country. The farms have large and commodious barns and good, substantial, brick and frame houses of modern style and architecture. The township is dotted over with elegant churches and good schoolhouses. All of the churches in this township, without exception, are Roman Catholic and number six in all. The greater part of the population is now, as it always has been, composed of people of German nativity or ancestry.

PIONEERS.

As in nearly all the townships, the first settlers selected homes on and along the streams of water. On Chickasaw Creek were located the families of Samuel Gray, Charles Botkin and John Miller, who were trustees in 1833. The first road supervisors, appointed in August, 1833, were Charles Botkin, William Botkin, William Ballinger, John Ballinger, Alexander Miller, William B. Winter, James L. Simes, Abel Worthington, John M. Gogil, Samuel T. Grant, John Davis, John Sprague, John Miller, Mathew Kearns, Samuel

Gray, Hugh Miller, Alexander Gillaspie, Jethro Ivens, John Willberry, Thomas Potter and John Potter. These men were the early settlers of Marion township. In 1834 Samuel T. Grant was commissioned as a justice of the peace for the township.

Among the first Germans to settle in the township were Mathias Gast, Arnold Clune, Fred. Elking, D. Hinders, Henry Lochtefeld, H. G. Schrage, Henry Overman, Andrew Harman, Bernard Wehrkamp, Henry Hulskamp, Dietrich Kremer, George Leugers, Henry Hagedorn and the Schwietermann family, and still later in the township's history were John Brackman, Bernard and Henry Grieshop, Gerhard Westgerdes, Bernard Pukenbrock, Anthony Rentz, Frederick Niekamp, Henry and Bernard Bertke, Lorenz Schunck, John and Fred. Fleck and the Hierholzer, Cron and Stelzer families.

This township from the earliest history has always been represented at the Court House in Celina. Mathias Gast was an early commissioner of the county; H. H. Pulskamp served as county treasurer from this township and also as probate judge of the county; Bernard Wehrkamp from Carthagena was infirmary director; and Joseph Hinders, formerly of Marion, served as sheriff two terms.

CHICKASAW.

This, the only incorporated village in Marion township, lies in the northern part and is a station on the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railway. It was laid out in July, 1838, by John Nutter and James Brooks. Little progress was made, however, in the development of the place until the early '80's. Chickasaw was incorporated as a village in 1890. The following are the present village officials: Mayor, H. S. Shaffer; clerk, Joseph Dorsten; treasurer, Joseph Haufelder; marshal, William Cron. Chickasaw has two brick school buildings, each one story high. The village Board of Education is constituted as follows: John P. Hartings, John Eyink, August Rentz, Casper Clune and Dr. H. G. Rawers. The Church of the Most Precious Blood is located here. Henry Gast, Jacob Link and Rawers & Tekamp have general stores. Frederick Gast deals in groceries and notions; Meinerding & Grieshop, in hardware; H. S. Shaffer, in building materials, B. A. Spoltman, in harness; and Gerhard Schroeder, in monuments. Joseph Dorsten is engaged in blacksmithing, William Cron, in the manufacture of wagons, and Frederick Max, in conducting a sawmill. Another manufacturing concern of the place is the Union Handle Company. Chickasaw has had a hotel for the last 25 years or more. Dr. H. G. Rawers is the town's only physician.

ST. JOHNS

Was laid out in 1838 by John and Christian Stelzer, the plat being recorded

WEST SCHOOL BUILDING, CELINA
(Now torn down to make way for new building)

PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS, CHICKASAW

PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, COLDWATER

EAST SCHOOL BUILDING, CELINA

on September 24th. In April, 1851, an addition to St. Johns on the west was laid out by Archbishop John B. Purcell. St. John's Church is located here. John Listenschneider, John Stellar and John Thomas settled on the site of St. Johns in 1833. By reason of the fact that the first settlers were all named John the settlement was given the name of St. Johns. The town formerly had considerable business, but since the completion of the railroad through Marion township the business of St. Johns has been gradually transferred to

MARIA STEIN,

A station on the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railway, less than a half mile west from St. Johns. This town has a population of about 500 or 600 but is not an incorporated village. The most important manufacturing concern of this town is the New Spreader Company, manufacturers of manure spreaders, of which company Henry Synck is manager and Benjamin Oppenheim, secretary. The company has a very complete plant, including foundry, pattern shop, wood-working machinery, electric light plant, etc., and employs 25 men. John Link conducts the Maria Stein Machine Shop, where boilers and engines are repaired and wagons are manufactured and repaired. Other important industries of the town are the Davidson butter tub factory, the grain elevator of Henry Kramer, who also deals in hardware and groceries and the Moeller Lumber Company, Louis Moeller, manager, which company deals in lumber and building material. Henry Goecke conducts an undertaking business, manufactures brick and deals in furniture. Dr. Alois J. Willke is the town's physician. Located a short distance northeast of the town is the large convent of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood. A little over a mile west of Maria Stein is the settlement known as

ST. ROSA.

This place was laid out by Archbishop John B. Purcell in June, 1854, the plat being recorded on the 29th of the month. It was laid out as Rose Garden and known both by this name and by St. Rosa, which was the postoffice name. St. Rosa's Catholic Church is located here. Less than two miles west of St. Rosa is the town of

CASSELLA,

Which was laid out under the name of Marysville in 1860. Cassella later became the name of the postoffice and the town is now generally known by the latter name. It has a population of about 100. St. Mary's Catholic Church is located here. There are two general stores situated at Cassella,

conducted by Mrs. Magdalena Cron and Joseph Hierholzer; a blacksmith shop and wagon repairing establishment conducted by Frank Feltz; and an agricultural implement depot, conducted by Hierholzer & Feltz.

CARTHAGENA

Is located in the northwest corner of the township and is a settlement of perhaps 100 people. The town was laid out by Charles Moore in December, 1840. Here was formerly located the Emlen Institute, established by Augustus Wattles, of Connecticut, as an educational institution for the colored people. The property was later bought by a Catholic order, the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood, which established St. Charles Seminary for the education of young men for the Catholic priesthood. This is the motherhouse of the American Province of the Fathers of the Most Precious Blood. St. Aloysius' Catholic Church is also located at Carthagena. The colored people are growing less in numbers every year, but they still support a church near Carthagena and had a school until a few years ago. The lands once owned by them have been bought by German people and but few colored residents now remain in the township. For many years it was their custom to hold a great jubilee on the first day of August of each year. Carthagena does not command much trade from the surrounding country, as the towns of Coldwater, St. Henry and Chickasaw are too near. It has, however, a general store owned by Anton Link and a carriage and agricultural implement store conducted by Joseph Hartke.

SEBASTIAN

Is a small town located a little over a mile north of Chickasaw. It has one church, St. Sebastian's, and a grocery.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP

This township is bordered on the north by the Grand Reservoir, forming a very irregular boundary; it is bounded on the east by Auglaize County, on the south by Marion township and on the west by Butler township. It is six miles long from east to west, has an average width from north to south of about three and a half miles and contains about 22 square miles. The township was organized December 7, 1841, and the first election was held December 24, 1841. At the settlement two small bands of Indians occupied a part of this territory. They were known as the Big and Little Chickasaws and from them two streams of the township took their names. These Indians were peaceably disposed and never gave any trouble or alarm to the settlers. The people of this township are a thrifty lot of farmers,

it being one of the best farming districts of the county. Corn, wheat, oats and all the grains are grown in abundance. The township has always been represented on the Mercer County fair board. The present township officials are as follows: Trustees—J. J. Ulrich, Hy. Filling and Henry Ronnebaum; clerk, A. C. Long; treasurer, John Harrison; justices of the peace—Walter N. Monroe and John W. Harrison. The population of the township was 1,015 in 1880, 1,240 in 1890 and 1,320 in 1900.

In an early day when the Grand Reservoir was abundant with fish, and wild ducks and geese were plentiful, the principal vocation of the people that lived on the south bank of the reservoir was fishing and shipping ducks, geese and fish. A great many of the best farmers in the township paid for their farms and homes with fish caught from the reservoir. In the good fishing season it was no uncommon occurrence to see from 25 to 100 teams a day come here to get fish, which in those days sold for a good price.

After this resource of wealth was exhausted, another gold mine was struck in Franklin township—gas and oil were discovered, and more wells were drilled here than in any other township of the county. It proved to be more of a gas field than an oil field, and many large gas-wells were put down. So great was the supply that companies were organized and the towns in this section of the country were supplied from this field. Two pipe-lines supplied Celina, Greenville, Piqua, Dayton, Springfield and all nearby towns. The era of natural gas was, however, not long-lived, and the people went back to coal and wood. The large towns are yet supplied, but from a different gas field. Celina is now supplied with gas from a field east of Columbus, some 140 miles distant.

PIONEERS.

Among the first settlers of the township were Stephen Sprague, Abraham and John Miller and the Lacey, Beauchamp and Johnson families. The Botkin family settled on Chickasaw Creek in 1829; there were two brothers, Charles and William. Peter Circle came here about 1835. William B. Winter, William Ballinger, Henry B. Bennett, Isaac Brandon, William P. Long, Isaac W. Preston, Thomas McGee, Singleton Buxton, Jacob Selby, Barney Dabbelt, Henry Dammeyer and the Burdges and Trims were all pioneers of Franklin township. Isaac Ellis, who died several years ago, was an early settler of the township and was the fur buyer for all this section of the country. Samuel C. Hyler, 88 years of age, is the oldest resident of Franklin township; he has lived here since 1854.

CHURCHES.

All the churches of Franklin township are located at Montezuma and

are three in number: United Brethren, Methodist Episcopal and Church of Christ. There is also a Catholic mission located here, of which Rev. Cosmas Seeberger, C. PP. S., is pastor *pro tem.*

The Montezuma class of the United Brethren Church was organized in 1845 by Rev. R. Gillen. Among the first members were: Elizabeth Buxton, Mary Taylor and William Beauchamp and wife. Until the first church building was erected, about 1862, services were held at the homes of the various members. The present church building was erected at Montezuma in 1879 at a cost of about $2,000, being dedicated by Bishop Weaver on the first Sunday in June of that year. The following pastors have served this church since Rev. R. Gillen: Revs. John Slife, A. Shingledecker, Michael Johnston, J. M. Lea, Lewis S. Farber, Elias Counsellor, Wentz and Heistand, D. W. Abbott, J. Ogle, Nicodemus, William Miller, R. W. Wilgus, Thomas Coats, R. G. Montgomery, Reuben Moore, P. C. Bechdolt, E. G. Stover, D. A. Boyd, S. M. Leidy, L. C. Reed, J. F. Miller, C. T. Betts, W. E. Amsbaugh, J. N. Holins, Joseph Kirk and J. P. Hight, who also serves the Mount Zion class in Center township, the Old-town class in Jefferson township and the Burnt Wood class in Butler township. The membership of the Montezuma class is 79 and the Sunday-school has an average attendance of 65.

The Montezuma Methodist Episcopal Church was organized at a very early day, but for different reasons was at one time abandoned. The organization was revived in 1880 by Rev. Lyman E. Prentiss, of Celina. A frame church was built and furnished at a cost of a little more than $2,000, being dedicated by Rev. Belt on May 7, 1882. The church now has a membership of 70 with an average Sunday-school attendance of 75. The church property is valued at $1,500. The following pastors have served this church since 1882: Revs. W. G. Wesselius, 1882-83; James G. Day, 1884-85; E. T. Daily, 1888-89; John F. Naugle, 1890; W. J. Hagerman, 1891-92; B. W. Day, 1893; Charles McCord, 1894-95; C. B. Kramer, 1896-97; J. J. Richards, 1898-99; J. M. Longsworth, 1900; F. M. Houser, 1901-02; J. S. Bell, 1903-04; A. H. Weaver, 1905-06; and C. M. Baker, the present pastor, who also has charge of Center Chapel and Copp's Chapel in Center township and the Coldwater Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rev. J. A. Persinger is pastor of the Church of Christ at Montezuma. There is a Sunday-school in connection with this church.

MONTEZUMA

Is situated in the northwest part of Franklin township on Beaver Creek and Lake Mercer. It was laid out in 1835, the plat being recorded on March 12th. Morris Kelly came to the county in 1850; at a later date he engaged

in business as a storekeeper at Montezuma. A. J. Platt was for many years a merchant here. Jimmy Johnson at one time owned and operated a gristmill at Montezuma and also distilled whiskey. Montezuma was incorporated as a village in 1894 and its first mayor was William A. Lacey and its second, George Preston. The present village officials are as follows: Mayor, William Cochran; clerk, J. J. Ulrich; treasurer, W. L. Hoel; marshal, Jacob Hoel; Council—L. E. Springer, Cornelius Franks, I. N. Stump, William Roush, G. H. Preston and A. C. Long. William A. Lacey is postmaster. The population of the village was 210 in 1890 and 317 in 1900.

The boys and girls of the pioneer days in the vicinity of Montezuma obtained the rudiments of an education in an old, round-log building, known to the inhabitants of this section as the "Wolves' Den." It was located half a mile south of Montezuma. The first school building erected in the village was located in the south part of town and was 12 by 14 feet in size. It was a frame structure; its interior furnishings—seats and desks—were very crude and plain. As the school increased in size new buildings were erected, all of which were one-story, frame structures. After two such buildings had been built and outlived their usefulness, the present frame schoolhouse was erected. It had two rooms at first; in 1895 it was remodeled and another story added. As the building stands at present, it is a two-story, frame schoolhouse with four rooms. Four teachers are employed. The superintendent of the village schools is R. G. Clark. The Montezuma Special School District was organized in September, 1895. The Board of Education, as at present constituted, is as follows: D. S. Monroe, S. J. Carter, J. J. Beauchamp, G. H. Preston and J. F. Monroe.

The town has a sawmill, conducted by C. P. Heavlin; the blacksmith shop of William Boze; the grocery, meat market and restaurant of A. C. Long; and the general stores of Barney Rohler and W. L. Hoel. Cloid Tobin is the proprietor of a barber shop. Dr. L. T. Arthur is the town's resident physician.

CHAPTER VIII

EARLY HISTORY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH*

By Rev. Timothy Hankins.

In 1828, Robert Finley, after having served the Presbyterian Church 25 years, and the Methodist Church about the same length of time, came to St. Marys (then in Mercer County), he being then on the superannuated list. It does not appear that he came by the authority of the church or voluntarily, but he was seeking "the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Here he found a few who had not lost their religion by emigrating, among whom were the families of Cuthbert Vinson and that of H. Major. In the year 1829 a camp-meeting was held at St. Marys, at which there were a number of conversions, and the little society was greatly encouraged and built up. Brother Finley was assisted at this camp-meeting by William H. Raper and John P. Wright. He then extended his mission westward to Twelve-Mile Creek, Shane's Prairie and Willshire.

In 1830 Abraham Millice was sent to do missionary work. He was succeeded by James B. Austin and John Wood. Then another camp-meeting was held, which was conducted by Robert Finley, James B. Finley and James W. Finley, after which the work was greatly extended. St. Marys mission included Shane's Prairie, Mercer County; Willshire and Sugar Ridge, Van Wert County; Kalida, Putnam County, and contained all there was of Methodism in the territories of Mercer, Van Wert, Putnam, Allen and Auglaize counties.

In the fall of 1831 Joseph Hill and a Mr. Frey came as missionaries. The work then began to assume a more systematic form. A four weeks' circuit was formed, which included all the counties above named. Some of the appointments were a day's journey distant, and the minister was compelled to carry subsistence for himself and horse with him.

In 1832 Jesse Pryor was the missionary, William H. Raper, the pre-

*From "History of Van Wert and Mercer Counties," 1882.

siding elder. Up to this date no record of the missions has been found, and the report, thus far, is made up from the statements of those yet living. The work was then called "St. Marys Mission, Maumee District, Ohio Conference." That year a society was formed at or near the mouth of Twelve-Mile Creek, in a log schoolhouse, consisting of Israel Forbes and wife, Samuel Hanson and wife, Joseph Rider and wife, and George Parrott, who was the leader. Mother Rider still lives in the same vicinity, and George Parrott has removed to Iowa. This, it is believed, was the first class formed in what is now Mercer County. But this earnest and faithful man, Pryor, was zealous in his labors, and the first year formed a class in the vicinity of what is now called Bethel. This society consisted of 22 members, namely: Abel Wright, Nancy Wright, James Wright, Sarah Wright, Wealthy Wright, Lawrence Wright, George Shepherd, Elmer Shepherd, Margaret Shepherd, James Watts, Charity Watts, Jonathan E. Dutton, Elizabeth Dutton, James Smith, Sarah Smith, Christena Smith, George Parrott, Nancy Parrott, Samuel Parrott, Jemima Parrott, George Wilson and Sarah Wilson. Of this number, all but one or two are now dead. Abel Wright was the first leader and James Wright, exhorter.

In 1833 James Finley and John Alexander were the missionaries. The first quarterly conference for that year was held on the 19th and 20th of October, William H. Raper, presiding elder. The years in this history mean the conference year and not the calendar year, hence 1833 commenced in the fall of 1833 and continued until the fall of 1834, and so of all the years in this history.

In 1834 Philip Wareham was the missionary and L. B. Gurley was the presiding elder; but whether the work covered all the territory and preaching-places it did at the beginning, does not appear from any records, and there is no certain report of the finances of those times; but, judging from the times a few years later, of which the writer has personal knowledge, the support of the missionary mostly came from the missionary society of the church.

In 1835 John O. Conway came as a missionary, and L. B. Gurley was yet the presiding elder. Mr. Gurley was a good man, and died in full hope of a future reward.

In 1836 Isaac Bennett and Joseph Santby were sent on the work, and John Jones was the presiding elder. At this time there was a division of the work, the northern part being assigned elsewhere, for the mission was in a different district, with a different elder than formerly.

In the year 1837 Jonathan Hudson and John F. Langman came as missionaries. Mr. Langman was an Englishman. At the close of that year a camp-meeting was held at Twelve-Mile Creek, near Benjamin Roebuck's. At this meeting there were a number of conversions and accessions to the

church. There was a large amount of rowdyism shown, such as hooting, gobbling like turkeys, etc. But this noise came from a class to whom Christianity is an eye-sore, and which conduct would not be tolerated at this day and age.

In 1838 George Armstrong was the missionary, and Elmer Yocum the presiding elder. The work included the following appointments: St. Marys, Mercer, Shanesville, Harper's, Willshire, Van Wert, Sugar Ridge, Tomlinson's, Pring's, Goefford's, Duck Creek, Mendon, Eight-Mile (now Bethel) and Roebuck's, and was called "St. Marys Mission, Michigan Conference." Greenbury Vinson was placed by Elmer Locum to assist Mr. Armstrong in the work. The class at Celina was organized in that year, or at the beginning of the year 1839, by Messrs. Armstrong and Vinson and consisted of the following members, viz.: Eben Foster and wife, Jane Foster, William Allen and wife, Mrs. McMahon, Christian Maurer and wife, Levi Dibble and wife, and Ira Foster and wife, with Ira Foster as class leader.

In 1839 Martin Welch and Liberty Prentice were the missionaries, with Elmer Yocum as presiding elder. The work was then called "St. Marys Mission, Mount Vernon District, Michigan Conference." That year another camp-meeting was held at Twelve-Mile Creek, near the residence of Benjamin Roebuck, at which the disturbers were again present in force; but the Lord's people had now become a power, and would not tolerate rowdyism. But this species of annoyance was more or less rampant for years after.

In that year the old Bethel Church was built, which was, I believe, the first Methodist Episcopal Church built in what is now Mercer County. The first church building in Celina was commenced the same year, under the labors of George Armstrong. It appears that at this time there was a division in the work, and Celina was included in what was called the "Recovery Mission, Bellefontaine District, Northern Ohio Conference." W. S. Morrow was the presiding elder.

In 1840 A. B. Wambaugh preached in this locality, which was then called St. Marys circuit; but I cannot now tell who preached on Recovery mission during the years of 1840 and 1841.

In 1841 Jacob A. Brown was assigned to the St. Marys circuit, which included Bethel, Mercer, Mendon, Tomlinson's, Roebuck's and other places, and was then a three-weeks' circuit. This year there was a wonderful revival of religion all over this part of the country, especially at St. Marys and Mendon. The Holy Spirit was manifest among the people, and it was not uncommon to hear shouting. Prayer-meetings and class-meetings were well attended, and many were added to the church. The protracted meeting at Mendon that year was truly a success. Many united with the Lord's people,

M. E. CHURCH, FORT RECOVERY

M. E. CHURCH, ROCKFORD

M. E. CHURCH, MERCER

ST. PAUL'S M. E. CHURCH, CELINA

some of whom have gone to their reward, while some yet remain with us, living witnesses of the power of God among men.

In 1842 Edward Williams and James J. McNab were the ministers, and William S. Morrow was the presiding elder. The work was then called "St. Marys Circuit, Recovery Mission."

In 1843 Samuel Beatty and Amos Wilson were the ministers, but it appears Mr. Wilson only remained two quarters, for at the second quarterly meeting Fort Recovery was again struck off, and the Celina mission was formed; but we find no record after this for several years, or until 1846, but know that Samuel Beatty and Amos Wilson were on the work when the Celina circuit was formed. S. P. Shane was at that time presiding elder. This was then known as "Celina Circuit, Sidney District." After Wilson was removed, Alexander Harmount was placed in his stead, with Mr. Beatty, the remainder of the year.

In 1844 C. H. Owens and James M. Barr were sent to the Celina circuit, which then included all the northern part of Mercer County. But I have found no records of these times, and it may be there are mistakes in names and dates, for it seems from the foregoing that many changes were made.

In 1845, we understand, St. Marys was included in the Celina circuit and Charles Thomas was the minister at St. Marys.

During the conference year of 1847, the work was called "St. Marys Circuit and Willshire Mission," and Charles Brandebery and Elisha Hook were the preachers. The work then included all the north part of Mercer County; St. Marys in Auglaize County; and Willshire in Van Wert County, and was a four-weeks' circuit, with 10 appointments, as follows: Celina, St. Marys, Neptune, Bethel, Mendon, Tomlinson's, Twelve-Mile Creek, Mercer, Shanesville and Willshire.

In 1848 Samuel L. Yourtee was sent to the circuit, with Willshire, Shanesville, Mercer and Tomlinson's appointments cut off and attached to the Van Wert circuit. Yourtee did not fill all the appointments, for Neptune was entirely without a minister, and the north part of the county was only partly supplied, the preacher putting in most of his time in St. Marys and Celina. Wesley Brock was then the presiding elder.

In 1849 Samuel B. Guiberson was the preacher, and was returned in 1850, in which year the parsonage in St. Marys was built, and a gracious revival of religion was general all over the work.

In 1851 the work was still a mission, and Ralph Wilcox was the missionary. He was a faithful and devout preacher, but failed to build up the waste places of Zion. Wesley Brock was presiding elder.

In 1852 Joseph Wykes was sent to the work, which was then called St. Marys mission, with Hiram Shaffer as presiding elder. Mr. Wykes was an

Englishman, a good preacher and pastor, and much good was done on the work.

In 1853 St. Marys was made a station and the Celina circuit was formed. Gersham Lease was sent as minister. And here it may be proper to define the difference between a mission and a circuit. A mission means a work where the minister receives a part of his support from the missionary society of the church, which was raised in the older and more wealthy portion of the country. At first it amounted to $200, and then less and less from time to time, as seemed necessary, until the work was considered able to support its preacher, and then it was called a circuit. So we see that at this time the missionary fund ceased, and the Celina circuit was expected to support its own minister. But in 1854 we find that Rev. Wesley Brock was the minister, and the amount paid being insufficient, Mr. Brock, aside from his pastoral duties, taught school and worked at farming. Hiram M. Shaffer was then the presiding elder.

In 1855 George O. McPherson was sent to the Celina circuit. He was a man of more than ordinary ability, and there was a general awakening on the subject of religion, although the good people of Celina had to worship in the Court House. A camp-meeting was held that year near the Bethel Church. H. M. Shaffer was then presiding elder.

In 1856 Rev. George O. McPherson was returned, a second church was built in Celina, and a second camp-meeting was held near Bethel, although enemies of the church tried to burn down the tents a few days before the time appointed for holding the meeting. Elnathan C. Gavitt was at that time presiding elder.

It appears that in 1848 the work was divided, and the northwest part of Mercer County, including Mercer, Shanesville, Willshire, and some other appointments was formed into a mission, with Rev. Elisha Hook as minister. In 1849 Lafayette Ward and Reuben D. Oldfield were the preachers on this mission. In 1850 Reuben D. Oldfield was returned as minister in charge, and J. K. Ward as junior. Wesley Brock was the presiding elder. In 1851 Samuel B. Guiberson and Jacob F. Burkholder were the ministers. In 1852, Nathan Taylor and Gersham Lease were the ministers, and Hiram Shaffer was the presiding elder. In 1853 Nathan Taylor was returned, and Francis Duvall was the junior minister. This part of the work was attached to the Willshire circuit, part of the time to Van Wert, and finally to what was called the Black Creek mission, and in 1858 was again included in the Celina circuit, as we shall see further on. In 1854 the ministers on this part of the work were J. Fribley and N. B. C. Love. In 1855 N. B. C. Love was the minister, and John Priddy, junior. In 1856 John Price and D. P. Darling were the ministers; Elnathan C. Gavitt, presiding elder.

In 1857 George O. McPherson and E. G. Longsworth were on this mission. That year a society was formed at Black Creek, or what is now known as Fountain Chapel. The first society numbered 14, to-wit: Charles Ward and wife, A. Cole and wife, Moses Stover and wife, Robert McKissick and wife, Samuel Loree and wife, Anna Allison, Basil Durango, Peter Martz and Charles Ward, Sr. Samuel Loree was the leader.

In 1858 this mission was attached to the Celina circuit, and Samuel Boggs and Joshua Smith were the preachers.

There was a Methodist society organized at Skeel's Cross Roads in 1854, by J. Wykes, consisting of seven members, namely: Joshua Lee and wife, C. Skeels and wife, Calista Way, Amos Lee and Samantha Lee. Brother Amos Lee was licensed to exhort in February, 1856, and licensed to preach in July, 1857, and afterwards traveled the Celina circuit for two years as the junior preacher under the elder.

In 1859 James F. Mounts and Amos Lee were on the Celina circuit; and in 1860, Lemuel Herbert and James F. Mounts were the ministers, and H. M. Shaffer was presiding elder. In 1861 and 1862 Philip A. Brown and Caleb Hill were the ministers. In 1863 David Bull and A. J. Frisbee were on the work; and in 1864, David Bull and Amos Lee were the ministers, and Franklin Merritt was the presiding elder. In 1865 Enos G. Longsworth and Harrison Maltbie were preachers on the Celina circuit, and Franklin Merritt was presiding elder.

It may be proper here to give the date and names of the first society in Mendon. The society was formed in 1836, under the labors of Isaac Bennett and Joseph Santley, and was composed of the following persons: Jacob Panabaker and wife, Mary Panabaker, Amos Barber and wife, a Mr. Bailey and wife, Mr. Porter and wife, Barney Forbes and daughter, Jonathan E. Dutton and wife, Joseph Rider and wife, Elizabeth Parrott, Adam Panabaker, the local preacher, Louisa Rider and Lucinda Baker. Jacob Panabaker was the leader. These, it is believed, are all dead now, excepting Mother Panabaker, Mother Rider and Lucinda Baker (now Lucinda Protzman).

In regard to the south part of the county I have said but little, because I have found no record as yet from which to draw the necessary information. It has not been connected with Celina, as the north part of the county has been, in reference to this matter, being a part of the time in another district, as well as in another mission or circuit.

And now I wish to say that I have found it very difficult to get the proper dates for this history, on account of the manner in which the changes have been made from time to time. Consequently I may have made some mistakes in names and dates, as there are but few of the old residents living now from whom accurate information can be obtained. But I have done my best under existing circumstances.

CHAPTER IX

ROMAN CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS AND CHURCHES

The first Catholic settlement in this section of Ohio was established, as early as 1830, in what is now Auglaize County, by a Catholic priest named Stallo, who gave it the name of Stallotown. The same year, however, the name was changed to Minster. In 1832 Father Hortsman came to Minster as priest and built the first church building, a large log structure, 40 by 60 feet in dimensions and 16 logs high. Services at this chapel were attended by the Catholic people within a radius of 15 miles. From this year we may date the introduction of Catholicism in Mercer County, for not only did residents of this county attend the chapel at Minster, but missionary services were also conducted in the southern townships of Mercer County by priests from Minster, New Bremen and St. Marys.

The Catholic churches of Mercer County are to-day almost without exception in a very flourishing condition, which fact speaks volumes in praise of the Fathers of the Most Precious Blood, who have built them up. As the history of the churches is so intimately connected with that of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood, we shall give a history of the society and its institutions, closing the chapter with the history of each church and mention of the leading parochial schools. For the history of the congregation and of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, as well as for other data relating to the churches, we are indebted to Rev. Paulinus Trost, C. PP. S., rector of St. Charles Seminary. Certain statistics, chiefly relating to the size of the congregations and the officers of the institutions, we have obtained from the Official Catholic Directory of 1906, which statistics we have verified and brought down to date as much as has been possible. We wish also to acknowledge the assistance we have received from the pastors of the churches, who have responded most willingly to our requests for the recent history of their parishes.

ORIGIN OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD.

In the Catholic Church there have risen from time to time men or women who have made one or the other of the tasks imposed upon the church a special object of their lives. Thus some would gather around themselves men or women, to nurse the sick; others to dispense charity; others to educate the young; others to preach missions, etc. Such associations of men or women are called orders, and according to the special work to which they devote themselves are termed charitable orders, preaching orders, teaching orders, etc. To those of later origin, however, the title of "Congregation" has been given.

The exercises practiced by the members of such a congregation consist, besides the general devotions prescribed by the church, of another, namely: A special devotion to one of the mysteries of the faith. From this special devotion the congregation as a rule receives its name.

Thus the initials "C. PP. S." signify the name "Congregatio Pretiossissimi Sanguinis," i. e., "Congregation of the Most Precious Blood," because its members venerate in a special manner the Blood of Christ by which we are redeemed. Moreover, in order to make this treasure of redemption most fruitful, the congregation has made it its special object to excite and spread the devotion to the Most Precious Blood of Christ, by conducting missions and various other religious exercises. Besides this noble work, the priests of the congregation perform the duties of pastors in parishes (at least in the United States), act as spiritual directors in convents or as chaplains in hospitals, and conduct colleges for the education of boys—certainly a wide field wherein a rich harvest may be gained for the Precious Blood.

The congregation was founded by a zealous priest of Rome, Gaspare del Bufalo, an Italian by birth, who died in the odor of sanctity, December 28, 1838. After returning to Rome from a four-years' banishment, which he had suffered because he refused to swear allegiance to Napoleon, the usurper of Rome, and, after having resigned his canonry at the Church of San Marco, Rome, Blessed Gaspare, for such he has been publicly declared by the Church (on the 18th of December, 1904), laid the foundation stone for his momentous undertaking, August 15, 1815.

Rev. Francis de Sales Brunner, a Swiss priest, who had enlisted the small band of zealous priests one year after the death of its founder, introduced the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood into America.

Father Brunner was born in Switzerland in the year 1795. After having absolved his studies, he was ordained priest and shortly afterwards entered the Benedictine Monastery at Maria Stein, Switzerland. Here he was promoted to a professor's chair and did some mission work. Determined, how-

ever, to devote himself entirely to mission work, Father Brunner went to Rome, where he affiliated himself with the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood in the year 1838. After a few years stay in Rome, he returned to Switzerland, where he educated eight young men for his co-laborers. With them he set out for America, September 29, 1843, upon the invitation of Archbishop John B. Purcell of Cincinnati, in order to assume the care of the German Catholics who were under the Archbishop's jurisdiction in Northern and Eastern Ohio. Among the young priests who accompanied him were Revs. John Van den Broek and John Wittmer.

The little band made St. Alphonse (near Newark) the center of their work and from there carried their labors to many other places, such as Dayton, Cleveland, Toledo and other towns along the western boundary of Ohio to Union City. In the course of time Father Brunner undertook several trips across the Atlantic in the service of his community. He died in Europe in 1859.

The congregation multiplied rapidly. At present it numbers 105 priests, some of whom are engaged in parish work in Ohio, Indiana and Missouri; some giving missions, and some conducting a college at Rensselaer, Indiana.

A SHORT HISTORY OF ST. CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY.

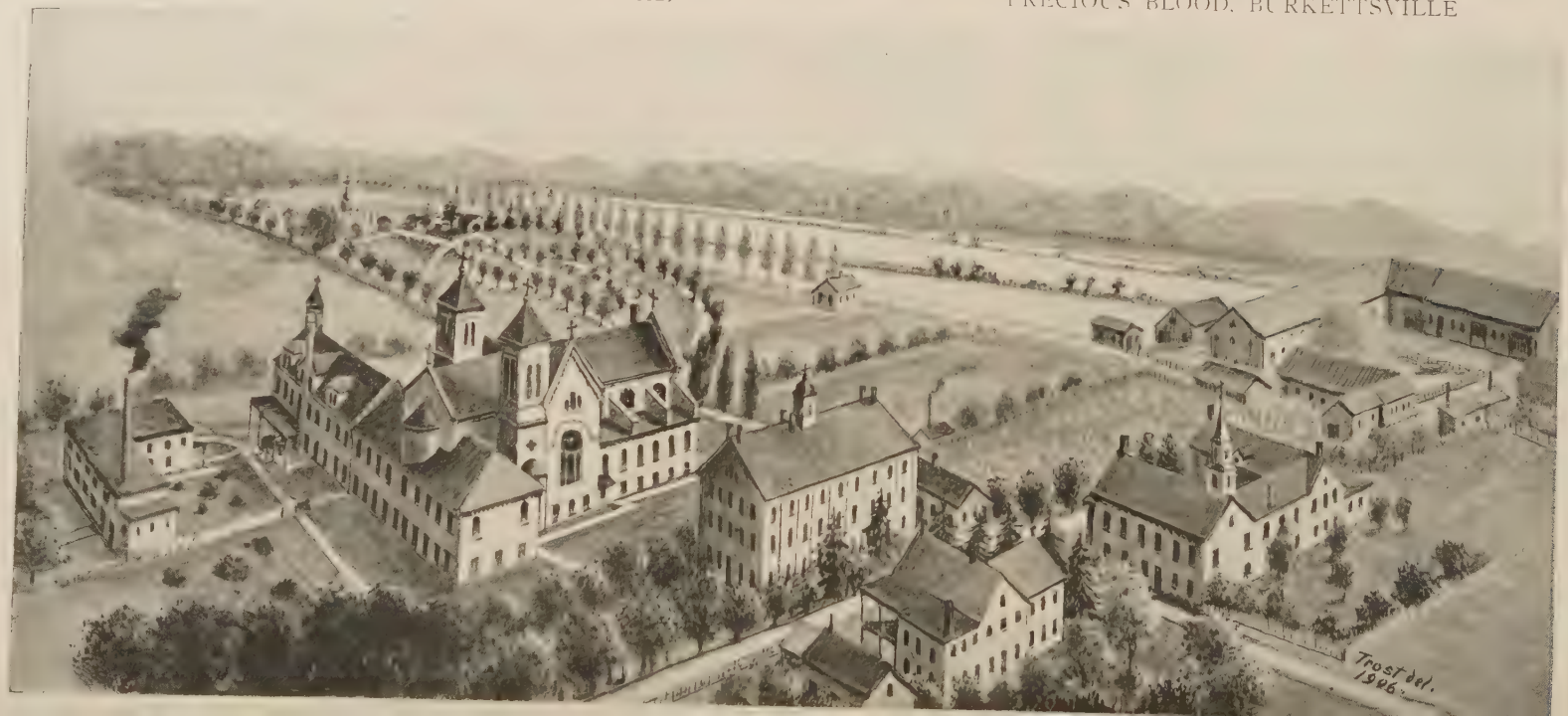
Owing to the rapid growth of the community, a place had to be selected and suitable buildings erected for the education of the members who were to serve as missionaries. Rev. Joseph Dwenger, C. PP. S., who later on became Bishop of Fort Wayne, Indiana, found the desired location at Carthagena, Mercer County, where, in 1861, he purchased the old industrial school for colored people, known as Emlen Institute.

Rev. Joseph Dwenger was born at Minster, Ohio, in the year 1837. After his father's death, his mother moved to Cincinnati where Joseph received his first instructions in the parochial school of Holy Trinity parish. When the family after some years returned to Mercer County, the mother of young Dwenger fell a victim to the cholera, in 1849. Rev. Andrew Kunkler, C. PP. S., then pastor of Minster, to whom Joseph applied, gave him further instructions and later on placed him with the Fathers of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood at Maria Stein, Ohio, where he completed his classical education. Going thence to Mt. St. Mary's of the West, to complete his theological studies, Joseph was ordained priest in the year 1859.

It was about one year after his ordination that Father Dwenger started St. Charles Borromeo Seminary; he held the rectorship of the same until the year 1863. In 1871 he became Bishop of Fort Wayne as the successor of Rt. Rev. Luers. He died at Fort Wayne January 23, 1893.

CONVENT OF MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS, NEAR MARIA STEIN
Motherhouse of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood)

NOVITIATE OF THE FATHERS OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD, BURKETTSVILLE



Rev. Bernard Dickman, C. PP. S., succeeded Father Dwenger as rector of the seminary in 1863. In the same year Father Dickman established the parish at Celina, where he built the first Catholic Church. Failing health necessitated this zealous priest to resign his rectorship in 1866. Having, however, recuperated his health, Father Dickman assumed charge of St. Joseph's College, Humboldt County, California. He remained in this position until 1874, when, returning to Ohio, he was employed in parish and mission work partly in Ohio and partly in Missouri. He died as pastor of the Church of Mary, Help of Christians, at Fort Recovery, Ohio, in 1906.

Upon the resignation of Father Dickman, Rev. Henry Drees, C. PP. S., assumed the duties of rector of St. Charles Seminary. Father Drees is a native of Oldenburg, Germany, whence he emigrated with his parents, who settled near Minster, Ohio, in 1836. In 1858 he entered the congregation and was ordained priest in 1861. His first appointment was to St. Mary's parish at Cassella.

During his rectorship, 1866-80, he built the present seminary building proper, 44 by 94 feet in dimensions, three stories high, and at the same time erected St. Aloysius' Church at Carthagena.

Here, it must be mentioned various improvements had been made before his time and different parts had been added to the original building by his predecessors.

Father Drees held his office as rector of the seminary until 1880 when he was elected by his fellow-priests, provincial of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood, an office he held for 18 years, having been elected three consecutive times. Father Drees is still active and in good health. He resides at present at the Maria Stein Convent, where he acts as spiritual director for the Sisters of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood.

Rev. Godfrey Schlachter, C. PP. S., succeeded Father Drees as rector of the seminary. Before joining the congregation, Father Schlachter resided with his parents, who were natives of Baden, Germany, at one time near Cleveland and later near Wendelin, Ohio. Having completed his theological course under Rev. Anthony Guggenberger, C. PP. S. (later a Jesuit and eminent historian), young Schlachter was ordained by Rt. Rev. Joseph S. Alemany, Archbishop of San Francisco, in June, 1876. He was rector of the seminary from 1880 to 1883.

Like Rev. Henry Drees, Father Schlachter is still engaged in the mission field, wherein he has become very renowned. He makes his home at the Fort Wayne mission house, the property of the congregation.

After him, Rev. Theopistus Wittmer, C. PP. S., became rector. Father Wittmer, when a mere boy, emigrated with his parents from Switzerland. The family settled near Egypt, Auglaize County, Ohio. In 1864 he was ad-

mitted into the community, and, having finished his studies at St. Charles Seminary, was ordained priest in 1872. Before his promotion to the rectorship, Father Wittmer had charge of St. Peter's parish, Winamac, Indiana, 1873 to 1876, and Celina, 1876 to 1883.

Father Wittmer held the rectorship until 1896, when he was transferred to Glandorf, Ohio, and was succeeded by Very Rev. Boniface Russ, at present provincial superior of the American division of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood. He is a native of Minster, Ohio, and was transferred to Carthagena after having charge of St. Joseph's, Wapakoneta, Ohio. Under him, ground was broken for the large pond (300 by 300 feet and about 12 feet deep), that is one of the beauties of Carthagena.

When a year and half later the confidence of the fathers called him to assume the provincial office, he appointed as his successor Rev. Joseph Uphaus, C. PP. S., a native of Glandorf, who after another year and a half was appointed pastor of Thompson, where he died March 26, 1906.

The next rector appointed was Rev. August Seifert, C. PP. S., a native of New Riegel, Ohio. He had been rector of St. Joseph's College from the time that that institution of learning had been founded (1892) and returned again to the same institution in the same capacity in the fall of 1902, after a two-years' successful administration of St. Charles Seminary. Under him the new graveyard was laid out and the beautiful memorial stone cross as well as the stations, was erected, through the liberal contributions of the Fathers of the Most Precious Blood. He also was the ingenious designer and constructor of the beautiful Lourdes' Grotto.

Father Seifert's successor was Rev. Benedict Boebner, C. PP. S., a native of Wendelin, Mercer County, who, after faithfully managing the incumbent affairs for two years, was promoted to the more strenuous and desirable occupation of preaching and conducting missions, retreats and other devotional exercises for the laity and the religious communities.

He was succeeded by the present rector, Rev. Paulinus Trost, C. PP. S., a native of Baden, Germany, who has made this country his home since 1876, when he was a young man of 20 years. He had devoted his youth to the art of painting under the direction of his father. Being ordained in May, 1885, after a four-years' activity in the ministry he was sent by his superiors to the Royal Academy of Arts, Munich, Bavaria, to acquire efficiency in the modern technique of painting. After three years attendance at that brilliant school of arts, he returned and was then active in St. Joseph's College at Rensselaer, Indiana.

In 1904 he was appointed to his present position. Under his supervision was erected (1905-06) the spacious new chapel, with Sisters' convent adjoining the south elevation of the building. The chapel is 128 feet long, with

a width of 85 feet in the transept. The length of the east side of the building is 183 feet. This beautiful Romanesque chapel in basilica style is certainly a credit to the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood, and an ornament to the seminary environs. The exquisitely artistic windows, especially the two large transept group pictures, are admired by all. This new building is the first part of the planned new seminary, forming about one-third of the whole, which will in course of time emerge, as we hope, from the plans on paper into effective reality.

INSTITUTIONS OF THE FATHERS OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD.

Motherhouse of the American Province of the Fathers of the Most Precious Blood, and St. Charles Seminary, at Carthagena: Very Rev. Boniface Russ, C. PP. S., provincial; Rev. Paulinus Trost, C. PP. S., rector; Revs. Ulrich Mueller, C. PP. S., Didacus A. Brackman, C. PP. S. and Julian Mayer, C. PP. S., professors; Revs. Cosmas Seeberger, C. PP. S., and P. Kuhnmuench, C. PP. S.; 22 students, all members of the community, and 23 lay brothers.

* * *

Novitiate of the Fathers of the Most Precious Blood, a mile and a half northeast of Burkettsville: Rev. Joseph Heitz, C. PP. S., master of novices; Revs. Andrew Stiefvater, C. PP. S., Philip Rist, C. PP. S., Hubert Seiferle, C. PP. S., Alphonse Laux, C. PP. S., and Ambrose Dowd, C. PP. S.; 17 novices and 27 brothers.

INSTITUTIONS OF THE SISTERS OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD.

Convent of Mary, Help of Christians, a mile and a quarter northeast of Maria Stein—Motherhouse of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood: Mother M. Josephine Roetsch, general superior; Sisters in the house, 88; Sisters in the community, 551; novices, 34; postulants, 23. This convent was established in 1844 by Sisters of the Most Precious Blood from Loewenberg, Canton Graubuenden, Switzerland. The Sisters conduct establishments in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and in the dioceses of Cleveland, Columbus, Fort Wayne, Kansas City, Nashville, St. Joseph, Sioux City and Tucson. In the main the Sisters devote themselves to teaching. They also engage in manual labor, manufacturing ornamental work for churches, and in literary and scientific studies. Connected with the Motherhouse is a normal school, in which novices are thoroughly trained. Rev. Henry Drees, C. PP. S., is chaplain of the convent chapel.

Gruenwald, Convent of Mary, Mother of God, half a mile south of Cassella: Sister M. Veronica, superior; 60 Sisters of the Most Precious Blood. Rev. Casper Schedler, C. PP. S., is chaplain of the convent chapel.

Convent of Assumption at Carthagena: Sister M. Cleova, superior; 12 Sisters of the Most Precious Blood.

Near St. Henry was formerly located Himmelgarten, Convent of Mary, Mother of God. This was given up and the property sold some years ago.

CHURCHES.

St. John's Church at St. Johns in Marion township is one of the largest as well as one of the oldest Catholic congregations of Mercer County. It was established here by priests from Minster in 1837, the first church erected being a small structure built of logs. Not many years afterward, the population of the parish having been largely augmented, a good brick church was erected at a cost of about $8,000, which was subsequently enlarged so that at the time it was replaced with the present structure it was a building 50 by 100 feet in dimensions. The present edifice was built in 1888 at a cost of $40,145 complete. Rev. Thomas Eisenring, C. PP. S., commenced the work by taking subscriptions, and Rev. Martin Dentinger, C. PP. S., completed the church. It is one of the handsomest church edifices of the county. A fine, brick priest's residence was built in 1906 on church land east of the church building by Rev. J. Otto Missler, C. PP. S., who is the present pastor. The congregation numbers 140 families.

St. Rosa's Church at St. Rosa, in Marion township, was established in 1837. A log church was built the following year. Regular services were first held about 1845, when Rev. L. Navarron, a French priest, with Rev. John Wittmer and other priests belonging to the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood, visited the church alternately and performed divine services. Under the supervision of Rev. Andrew Kunkler, C. PP. S., the present church was built at a cost of $6,000, being dedicated in June, 1854. It is a brick structure, 42 by 75 feet in dimensions. On November 24, 1894, the congregation celebrated the 50th year or "Golden Jubilee" of its foundation. The present parsonage, a pressed-brick building, was erected in 1905, at a cost of $4,700, the work being done under the supervision of the present pastor, Rev. Liberat Schupp, C. PP. S. It has all the modern improvements found in a building of this nature and is lighted by acetylene gas. The congregation has a membership of 67 families. The following priests, all members of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood, have had charge of the congregation since it was founded in 1844: Rev. L. Navarron, from 1844 to 1845; Rev. John Van den Broek, 1845 to 1846; Rev. John Wittmer, 1846 to 1848; Rev. Fred. Brenner, 1848 to 1849; Rev. Sebastian Gauter, Andrew Kunkler, A. Herbatritt and Peter Wilhelmy, who were pastors of the church from 1849 to 1856, inclusive; Rev. Nic. Gales, 1857 to 1861; Rev. Bernard

Austerman, who began his pastorate in 1861 and was succeeded by Rev. Paul Reuter; Rev. Peter Haberthur became pastor in 1866; Rev. A. Kramer, in 1875; Rev. Erhard Glück, in 1876; Rev. Francis Büchel, in 1879; Rev. Casper Schedler, in 1892; Rev. Henry Drees, in 1893; Rev. Aloys Malin, in 1898; Rev. Casper Schedler, in 1905, being succeeded in that year by the present pastor, Rev. Liberat Schupp.

St. Joseph's Church is situated in Recovery township at St. Joseph, about two and a half miles northeast of Fort Recovery. This church is one of the oldest Catholic churches in the county. It was organized in 1838, the first church structure being a log cabin built in that year. The first priest was Rev. John Herzog. Among the earliest members were John Dull and John Weiss and the Kramer, Goecke and Busch families. In 1861 a brick building, 45 by 85 feet in dimensions, was built at a cost of $6,000, which church continues to be used at the present time. A new steeple or tower was added to the church in 1903, during the pastorate of Rev. Seraphim Kunkel, C. PP. S. A priest's residence was built in 1906 of brick veneer at a cost of about $3,000, under the direction of the present pastor, Rev. Theodosius H. Brackman, C. PP. S., who assumed charge of the parish on November 1, 1905. Following are given the names of some of the priests who have served this church during recent years, all being members of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood: Revs. Aloys Malin, August Seifert, J. Otto Missler, Jacon Marti, Peter Scherak, Louis Hefele, Seraphim Kunkel and the present pastor, Theodisus H. Brackman. The church has a membership of 49 families.

St. Henry's Church at St. Henry, Granville township.—The early history of St. Henry's congregation dates back into the late '30's, when there were but few scattered families throughout the southern part of Mercer County. The earliest members were the Hulsman, Hemmelgarn, Romer, Weinart, Wendeln and Bruns families. The first priest was Father Bartels. The first house of worship, built in 1840, was a frame structure and was used until 1854. In 1853-54 the congregation, at a cost of about $7,000, built a brick structure, 48 by 100 feet in dimensions, on the site of the present parish house. It was built under the supervision of Rev. John Van den Broek and was dedicated by Archbishop John B. Purcell in 1854.

In 1895 steps were taken to erect a new church to accommodate the large congregation. The new edifice which was dedicated on July 25, 1897, is a large, handsome building, constructed of brick, trimmed with Bedford stone. It is in the form of a Latin cross, measuring 167 feet 6 inches in length and 88 feet wide at the transept, and in architecture is true Gothic. The ceiling is vaulted and is supported by 12 Bedford stone columns, each

20 inches in diameter and 30 feet high. From the floor of the nave to the apex of the vault is 62 feet. The tower is 203 feet above the street level and contains the largest chime of bells in this part of the State, consisting of the old bells and three new ones, in all aggregating 6,600 pounds. The tower also contains an Angelus chime clock, whose 12-foot dials are 110 feet above the street level. The cornice work, including the gutters and spouting, is of copper. The church will seat 1,100 and the gallery, where additional seats may be placed, will increase the seating capacity. The basement is finished off as a large assembly room for parish society meetings. The furnishings of the church are handsome and appropriate and in keeping with the architectural details of the building. The statuary, stations of the cross and memorial art windows were imported. The artistic painting and frescoing of the interior of the church were done with exquisite taste. St. Henry's' Church is considered by many competent judges to be the most costly church in Northwestern Ohio, $100,000 having been expended to date on the church and the beautiful memorial windows. In its construction the church took one and a half million bricks, which is said to be more than has been used in the construction of any other building in the county. In 1901 a commodious and beautiful parish house was erected on the site of the old brick church at a cost of $10,000. Both the church and the parish house are lighted by acetylene gas and heated by a system of steam and hot water. The church is free of debt and has over 1,100 communicants, representing about 250 families. Rev. Dominic Shunk, C. PP. S., is pastor.

St. Anthony's Church at Padua in Washington township.—The pioneer priests of the congregation of the Most Precious Blood, founded by Blessed Gaspare del Bufalo in Italy in 1815, and introduced into this country in the year 1844 by Rev. Francis Salesius Brunner, C. PP. S., were the first to administer to the spiritual wants of the few scattered Catholics in this territory, now known as St. Anthony's parish.

The first priest, Rev. Joseph Albrecht, C. PP. S., came from St. Joseph's parish, in Recovery township, Mercer County, and held divine services in the house of John Stelzer, in Indiana, and in the houses of Henry Wickelman and Anton Schnett, situated near the present St. Anthony's Church. A movement for the erection of a log church was first started in the fall o 1852 by the following men: Heinrich Schroer, Heinrich Wickelman, John Stelzer, John Weichel, Vinzenz Stark, John Driller, Louis Wickelman, Anton Schnett, Ignatz Rauh and Heinrich Fortmann.

The timber was hewn and the log church was built by these pioneers themselves, who pledged themselves, moreover, to contribute $4 each—in those days a large sum indeed, when there was no market at all for farm

produce unless at a great distance. The little congregation was soon increased by the following members: Heinrich Brinkman, Heinrich Hüttenbrock, Y. M. Hüttenbrock, Bernard Dennes, Theodore Middendorf, George John, Peter Obringer, Anton Schürman, Franz Wigand, Louis Greving, Felix Sell, Franz Langenhorst, Sebastian Krieg, Paul Wehrkamp, and Gerhard Homan.

The parish was in charge of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood under Father Joseph Albrecht, who visited the place about once a month. During his absence the people went to St. Peter's Church, about six miles east. In the baptismal record, which was started in 1853, we find the names also of Rev. Mathias Kreusch, C. PP. S., and Rev. Willibald Willy, C. PP. S.

Rev. Sebastian Gauter succeeded Father Albrecht and was pastor from 1855 to 1860. During this time, Fathers John Wittmer, Engelbert Ruff and Rochus Schuly conducted services at intervals. The last named became the regular pastor from 1860 to 1863. The next three years, namely, until 1866, Rev. Engelbert Ruff, C. PP. S., had charge of the place. It was during his pastorate that the congregation enjoyed half service every Sunday. The books show nothing of importance all this time, except the usual record of baptisms, marriages and burials. Father Ruff was succeeded by Rev. Peter Wilhelmy, C. PP. S., whose term of office, 14 years, was the longest of any pastor in the history of the parish.

The very limited space of the log church could no longer accommodate the growing congregation, so that steps were taken to build the present brick church. As early as 1873 stone was hauled from New Bremen, Ohio, and brick were made on the place of the new church, to be erected about one-fourth mile south of the old site; the land, originally two acres, was donated by Gerhard Homan. Preparations went on slowly, as the material had to be hauled over mud roads, at a distance of about 20 miles. Mr. De Curtains was the architect of the new church, which was about 44 by 80 feet in dimensions, and Mr. Van Oss, of Minster, Ohio, was the builder. The new edifice was completed in 1875, but was really finished and plastered in 1879. In this year the high altar was purchased for $600 from J. Schroeder.

By the frequent signing of their names in the baptismal register, it must be inferred that Revs. Jacob Ringele, C. PP. S., and A. Capeder, C. PP. S., acted at times as pastor of St. Anthony's.

Rev. Ignatius Selb, C. PP. S., succeeded Father Wilhelmy, but remained hardly a year, until 1881. From this time until 1882 we find Rev. Conrad Schneider, C. PP. S., who obtained the privilege to binate, and erected also the way of the cross.

Rev. Franz Büchel, C. PP. S., came next and stayed until 1884, when

Rev. Ferdinand Walser, C. PP. S., stepped in. Father Walser provided the first mission in the parish, conducted by a Redemptorist Father. He started also the St. Anthony's Young Men's Society, which has since become defunct. Father Walser obtained one acre of land from Henry Mai, on which he built a compartment house to be used by pastor and teacher. But before Father Walser could carry out his design of residing permanently at St. Anthony, he was removed by his superior and succeeded by Rev. Cosmas Maria Seeberger, C. PP. S., who remained 12 years, until 1898, attending to the place from Mary's Home Convent as did his predecessors up to the time of Father Wilhelmy, inclusively. Father Seeberger established the arch-confraternities of the Holy Rosary, Precious Blood and the Apostolate of Prayer, or the devotion of the Nine Fridays. Failing in health, Father Seeberger was replaced by Rev. Felix Graf, C. PP. S., who had charge of the parish not quite one year. In August, 1899, Rev. Maximilian F. Walz, C. PP. S., was appointed pastor of St. Anthony's Church. The people at this time were willing and generous enough to have the church remodeled and enlarged. Accordingly, in the spring of 1900 a sacristy with cloistral aisle, a brick tower from the ground up, to replace the foresteeple, were added to the church. A new roof and flooring were also necessary. The church was frescoed for the first time and further embellished by stained glass windows. The Christian Mothers' Society was established canonically in 1902. The year following, a pipe organ was installed in the church at an expense of $1,150, and an iron fence placed around the premises, costing with Page fence, $536.30. Gerhard Homan, Sr., donated in this year, half an acre for additional cemetery ground adjoining the old one. In 1903 the parish celebrated its golden jubilee, one pioneer member being present, Henry Schroer. Cement walks were laid around the church in 1904. The year 1905 witnessed the erection of both a residence for the pastor and a new schoolhouse. The former cost $3,500, and the latter, $1,200.

The total land of the parish now comprises three and a half acres. The total value of all the church property belonging to St. Anthony's parish at this time (1906) is about $24,000. The congregation numbers 74 families.

On August 9, 1906, Father Walz was transferred to Rome City, Indiana, and Rev. Charles H. Notheis, C. PP. S., a classmate of Father Walz, took hold of the reins of the parish as resident pastor.

St. Mary's Church at Cassella, Marion township, dates from about 1847, when the first services for Catholic people were rendered here by some of the pioneer Fathers of the Most Precious Blood, who came to the settlement on certain Sundays in order to provide religious services and instruction for the settlers of the Catholic faith. A plot of ground was secured, on which was

erected a small frame building, which served as a church until a new brick church edifice, 43 by 78 feet in dimensions, was erected at a cost of $6,000, under the pastorate of Rev. Peter Haberthur, C. PP. S. This building was dedicated in August, 1862, by Bishop Sylvester Rosecrans, D. D. Martin Hierholzer, Bernard Wehrkamp, John Cron and R. Schaeffer constituted the building committee. This church was destroyed by fire in 1889 and was at once rebuilt under the pastorate of Rev. Martin Dentinger, C. PP. S., at a cost of $16,000. A fine pastoral residence, built of brick, was erected in 1905 at a cost of $6,000, during the pastorate of Rev. Charles M. Romer, C. PP. S. Fifty-four families constitute the membership of the church. The financial and spiritual affairs of St. Mary's congregation are in excellent condition. This can be said of nearly all the Catholic churches of Mercer County, which fact speaks well for the Fathers of the Most Precious Blood, who have built up all these churches.

Since 1876 the following priests, all members of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood, have had charge: Rev. Sebastian Gauter, who served until 1886, when he was followed by Rev. Theobald Schoch, who was succeeded in 1887 by Rev. Martin Dentinger. Father Dentinger was pastor until 1890, when he was followed by Rev. Charles Meyer, who served until 1893. Very Rev. Henry Drees, Provincial of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood, attended for one year, until 1895, when Rev. Anselm Schmidt succeeded him. Rev. Philip Rist became pastor in 1897 and continued until 1902 when the present pastor, Rev. Charles M. Romer, took charge.

St. Mary's Church at Philothea, Butler township, was established on September 6, 1851, by H. Weiner, H. Wendeln, H. Zumalde, Frederick Albers, H. Spoltman, F. Saalman, H. Phelman and Henry Lennartz. Forty acres of land for church and school purposes were purchased of H. Weiner for $100 and in the following year a small log church was built. This church was used until 1871, when on July 11th the present church edifice, 45 by 85 feet in dimensions and costing $7,000 was dedicated. The church was built under the supervision of Rev. James Marti, C. PP. S. A chime of bells was placed in the church tower. A frame priest's residence was built in 1905 at a cost of about $4,500. Since 1880 St. Mary's Church has had the following pastors, all members of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood: Revs. Casper Schedler, Francis Büchel, Alphonse Laux, Bernard Russ, John Nageleisen, Peter Kuhnmuench, Willibald Schliemers, George Fleisch, George Hindelang, Xavier Mielinger, Edmund Lohmiller, Gregory Jüssel, Philemon Notheis, Ignatius Rauh and Erhard Fritz, the present pastor. The church has a membership of 55 families.

St. Sebastian's Church is located at Sebastian in the northern part of Marion township. It was formerly a part of St. John's and St. Rosa's congregations and was established by permission of the Bishop in 1852. The pioneers of this congregation were Adam Gerlach, John Will and B. Frohning. The first church edifice, built in 1853, served the congregation until a brick church was built in 1878-79, being dedicated in October of the latter year. It was erected under the supervision of Revs. Peter Kuhnmuench, C. PP. S., and Boniface Russ, C. PP. S., and was at the time considered the finest church building in all Mercer County. It was 45 by 85 feet in dimensions and cost $8,000. This church served the people as a place of worship until it was destroyed by fire January 12, 1903. A new brick church edifice, 52 by 113 feet in dimensions, was erected on the site of the former church the same year, under the supervision of Rev. Seraphim Kunkler, C. PP. S. A brick parsonage was built in 1905 at a cost of about $4,000. The congregation consists of 48 families. Dating from the construction of the second church, the following priests have served as pastors of St. Rosa's Church: Revs. Peter Kuhnmuench, Boniface Russ, Erhard Glück, Albert Voag, Eugene Grimm, Charles Meyer, Leopold Linder, John Nageleisen, Gregory Jüssel, Ferdinand Walzer, Anthony Dick, Seraphim Kunkler and Henry J. Winner, who has had charge of the church since August 23, 1906. All of the priests above named have been members of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood with the exception of the present pastor.

St. Aloysius' Church, which is located near Carthagena, in Marion township, was established about 1856, when the settlement of Catholics here made a purchase of land from the colored people. In 1860 a site for a graveyard was purchased and a school organized. The congregation was organized by Rev. Aloys Schelbert, C. PP. S. For some years the services were held for this congregation in the chapel attached to St. Charles Seminary. In 1875, the membership having increased to the point where a church building was needed, plans for a brick structure, 45 by 85 feet in dimensions, with a solid tower from the ground with walls two feet thick, were made under the supervision of the pastor, Rev. Henry Drees, C. PP. S. The corner-stone was laid and blessed in May, 1877, and through the indefatigable exertions of Father Drees the church was dedicated June 30, 1878, by Very Rev. Bernard Austerman, Provincial of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood. Among the active and energetic men of this congregation, who constituted the building committee, were: Philip Frey, Frederick Forsthoefel and Peter Knoth. Large subscriptions from other towns and congregations aided in the erection of this church, which cost $7,500. In the summer of 1905 extensive alterations were completed, which resulted in the complete remodeling of the old

church, of which nothing now remains but the tower and three walls. An addition was built to the church, the sanctuary was enlarged, the basement excavated and a steam heating plant installed. The church was further adorned and beautified by very artistic windows. At the present time the church property is valued at $20,000. Rev. Gregory Jüssel was rector during the period when these changes were made. The congregation of St. Aloysius' Church consists of 66 families.

All the pastors have been members of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood. The first pastor, Rev. Aloys Schelbert, served until 1865. John Van den Broek was next in charge and was followed by Rev. Anthony Guggenberger and he by Rev. Mathias Kenk, who served until 1870. Rev. Henry Drees then became pastor and continued until 1880, when he was followed by Rev. Godfrey Schlachter. The next pastor, Rev. F. Wittmer, was succeeded in 1895 by Rev. William Russ and he by Rev. Philip Hartmann in 1897. The following have since served: Revs. Boniface Russ, Henry Drees, Felix Graf, Stephen Weigand, Gregory Jüssel, who took charge of the church in 1900 and served until November 1, 1905, when he was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. Julian Mayer. The priests have always resided at the near-by St. Charles Seminary.

St. Wendelin's Church is located at Wendelin on the western line of Granville township, four miles west of St. Henry. The congregation was organized in 1856 and at that time consisted of eight families. The first church building, a frame structure, was dedicated in 1856. In 1867 a handsome brick church, 35 by 65 feet in dimensions, was erected during the pastorate of Rev. Paul Reuter, C. PP. S. In 1897 a 20-foot addition was built, so that the dimensions of the present church are 35 by 85 feet. In 1905 a frame parsonage was built at a cost of $3,500, since which time the congregation has had a resident pastor. The congregation has a membership of 54 families; Rev. Jerómie Ueber, C. PP. S., is pastor.

St. Peter's Church, which is an off-shoot of St. Joseph's Church, is situated in Recovery township, about two and a half miles northwest of St. Joseph's Church. The corner-stone of the first church edifice was laid October 6, 1858, by Archbishop John B. Purcell of Cincinnati. It was a brick structure, 35 by 65 feet in dimensions, and was erected under the direction of Rev. John Van den Broek, C. PP. S., at a cost of about $4,000. The first services in this church were held January 1, 1860, by Rev. Sebastian Gauter, C. PP. S. During the pastorate of Rev. Philemon Notheis, C. PP. S., it was decided to erect a new church. The corner-stone was laid May 24, 1904, and the church was dedicated on October 8, 1905, by His Grace, Archbishop

Henry Moeller of Cincinnati. This is a brick structure, 46 by 100 feet in dimensions. The church has a membership of 50 families. All the priests that have had charge of this congregation have been members of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood. Rev. R. Schnely was succeeded by Rev. Peter Wilhelmy, who was pastor from 1868 to 1876. Rev. Aloys Malin served from 1876 to 1879; Rev. Peter Kuhnmuench, 1879 to 1882; Rev. Isidore Hengartner, 1882 to 1886; Rev. Henry Drees, 1886 to 1889; Rev. Willibald Schliemers, 1889 to 1894; Rev. Fred. Baumgartner, 1894 to 1896; Rev. Alphonse Miller, 1895 to 1897; Rev. Gregory Jüssel, 1897 to 1900; Rev. Philemon Notheis, 1900 to 1906; and Rev. Robert Mayer, who has served since September 6, 1906.

St. Francis' Church, at the settlement of Cranberry Prairie in Granville township, was organized in 1858 through the efforts of Christopher and Jacob Schunck and Henry Hemmelgarn. A brick church edifice was built in 1860, 38 by 65 feet in dimensions, at a cost of about $5,000 and this building continued to be used until the present church was erected. The following priests, all Fathers of the Most Precious Blood, have been in charge of the congregation since 1860, when the first pastor, Rev. Paul Reutter, took up the work: Revs. Erhard Glück, R. Schnely, Jacob Marti, Nigsch, Sebastian Gauter, Frank Büchel, Ignatius Selb, Peter Wilhelmy, Meinrad Lennartz, Charles Zang, Anselm Schmidt, Eugene Grimm, Conrad Schneider, Charles Notheis, who served from 1893 to 1898; Cosmas Seeberger, from 1898 to 1903; and Edmund John Lohmiller, who has served since 1903. For some years past, the pastors of St. Francis' congregation have resided at St. Charles Seminary, some three miles distant, as there is no parsonage at Cranberry Prairie. During Father Seeberger's pastorate a two-acre plot of ground opposite the old church and cemetery was purchased, on which was erected a frame building, as a residence for the organist and sexton. Soon after Father Lohmiller took charge, he secured, in 1904, the erection of a brick school building, 36 by 50 feet in dimensions, and 30 feet high, with a tower. This structure was built by A. De Curtains and is equipped with a steam heating plant. The building has a basement and is roofed with tile. It is one of the handsomest and best appointed school buildings in the county. In the same year plans for a new church were made by William P. Ginther, an architect at Akron, Ohio. The foundation for this edifice was laid in the fall of 1904, the corner-stone laid May 14, 1905, and the building was completed in 1906, being dedicated with impressive and solemn ceremonies on Sunday, September 30th, by Very Rev. Boniface Russ, Provincial C. PP. S. It is a beautiful edifice and is a credit alike to the congregation and to its able and popular pastor. It is Gothic in style of architecture, 100 by 54 feet in ground dimensions and 112

feet high to the top of the tower, built of brick and with a slate roof. A basement is under the whole of the church, and the foundation walls are taken up to a height of six feet above ground in courses of Bedford stone. The church is equipped with a steam-heating system and is tastefully furnished within with new pews, confessional, communion railing, etc. The tower has three bells. N. A. Ley, an able contractor, of Minster, Ohio, built the church. The congregation has a membership of 52 families.

Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Celina.—The first Catholic resident in Celina was Owen Gallagher, who was alone in his religion until 1860. Daniel Mahoney settled here in 1861 and Celestine Garnier, Joseph Briggs, and John Hess, in 1862. The first Catholic service ever held in Celina was performed at the house of Joseph Zenders in 1864, Rev. Bernard Dickman, C. PP. S., presiding, at which time the organization took place. From this time services were held every two weeks. The society was soon increased by the membership of Christopher, Jacob and Peter Schunck. The congregation increasing, and the Catholics of the adjoining neighborhood desiring to attend service in Celina, it was decided to erect a house of worship, and on August 3, 1864, the corner-stone was laid by Archbishop John B. Purcell, of Cincinnati. A large procession of citizens, composed of both Catholics and Protestants, under the command of Col. Abner Davis, in full uniform, met the Archbishop. He conducted the ceremonies, assisted by Revs. Joseph Dwenger, Henry Drees, Bernard Dickman and John Van den Broek, all Fathers of the Most Precious Blood. Upon its completion, the building was dedicated December 8, 1865, by Father Dwenger, commissioned for the purpose by Archbishop Purcell. It cost $7,000, was built of brick and was 40 by 60 feet in size. An addition, made in 1878, increased the length of the church to 95 feet.

This church continued to serve the congregation for a period of a little over 20 years from the time it was enlarged. It finally became entirely too small for the large and growing congregation and steps were taken to build a larger and more imposing church edifice. The building was begun in 1900 and progressed so far that on Sunday, May 12, 1901, the corner-stone was laid with impressive ceremonies, at which time there was an immense concourse of people present, representing all sections of this part of Ohio. His Grace, Most Rev. Henry Moeller, Coadjutor Archbishop of Cincinnati, was present and conducted the ceremonies. The architects of this magnificent brick and stone church building were the De Curtains of Lima, Ohio, formerly of Carthagena, Mercer County. The contract for the building to be put under roof was let to John Burkhart, of Findlay, Ohio, the price paid him being $43,600. The total cost of the structure with the interior furnishings

was $85,000. The church was dedicated June 7, 1903, with imposing ceremonies. Great credit is due Rev. George Hindelang, C. PP. S., who had charge of the building of the church from the commencement to the finish and is the present pastor, as well as to other leading members of the congregation who might be named for their untiring work and zeal in behalf of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, namely: Christopher Schunck, C. D. Hierholzer, William Cron, William J. Maehlman, Henry Lennartz, H. J. McKirnan, Joseph Schmitt, J. A. Romer, W. H. Anthony, John E. Hamburger, Charles A. Kloeb, J. B. Pulskamp, Henry Pulskamp, as well as many others whom we cannot mention because of lack of space. The ladies of the church should also be remembered for the zeal and earnestness which they manifested in securing such a magnificent edifice. Mesdames Hierholzer, Schmitt, Dugan, Schunck, Desch, Gast, Kenney, Pulskamp and many others contributed of time and money for the success of the church. The church building is pronounced the finest in Northwestern Ohio and stands as a shining monument to the enterprise of the Catholic congregation at Celina. The congregation consists of 180 families.

Rev. Bernard Dickman, C. PP. S., was the first pastor of the church, serving from 1864 to 1869. He was followed by Rev. Mathias Kenk, C. PP. S., who was succeeded in 1872 by Rev. Th. Wittmer, who continued in charge of the church until 1883, when he became rector of St. Charles Seminary at Carthagena, where he remained from 1883 to 1897; he is at present pastor of the church at Glandorf, Ohio. Rev. Godfrey Schlachter, C. PP. S., who is now on mission work, followed Father Wittmer in 1883 and was himself succeeded in 1886 by Rev. Andrew Gietel, C. PP. S., who served until 1890. Rev. William Russ, C. PP. S., was pastor from 1890 to 1894; Rev. Philip Hartman, from 1894 to 1897; and Rev. Dominic Schunck, from 1897 to 1899. Rev. George Hindelang, C. PP. S., the present pastor, came here in 1899 from Clinton, Missouri.

Holy Trinity Church at Coldwater, Butler township, dates its origin from the year 1868. Three ardent Catholics—H. Kallmeier, H. Baese and Joseph Pohl—having determined that a Catholic Church should be erected at Coldwater, called upon Rev. John Van den Broek, C. PP. S., for his advice. The site was selected and the lot on which the church now stands was deeded by Tom Buxon for the consideration of $1. The work of erecting a frame church building, 30 by 60 feet in dimensions, was begun in 1868, when there were six heads of families in the congregation, viz.: Messrs. Kallmeier, Pohl, Birkmeyer, Gottemoller, Fisher and Tekamp. The church was built at a cost of $1,900 and was dedicated by Most Rev. John B. Purcell, D. D., Archbishop of Cincinnati. The first baptism in the church was that of Anna Birk-

ST. HENRY'S CHURCH, ST. HENRY

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, SHARPSBURG

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ST. JOHNS

CHURCH OF MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS, FORT RECOVERY

FOUR ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF MERCER COUNTY

meyer, on July 1, 1869. The first marriage was solemnized by Rev. Henry Drees, C. PP. S., on November 21, 1872, the bride and groom being Alphonse and Anna Sunderhaus. The first death to occur was that of Teresa Tobes, who passed away at the age of one year on September 14, 1869. As the years went by the congregation increased in size and the original frame church became too small, which resulted in the building of an addition on the northern end in 1886.

In 1896 extensive preparations were made for building a new church, as it was seen that it was absolutely necessary that more commodious quarters be obtained. On Sunday, June 5, 1898, the corner-stone was laid with impressive ceremonies by Rev. Francis M. Quatman, of Sidney, Ohio. The following year the edifice was finished, being dedicated on October 8, 1869, by Most Rev. William Henry Elder, D. D., Archbishop of Cincinnati. Holy Trinity Church is one of the most magnificent houses of worship in this section of the country. Its high, sharply-pointed arches and clustered drop columns denote the Gothic order of architecture. It is built of pressed brick with blue Bedford stone trimmings. The building is 140 feet long by 54 feet wide, the width at transept being 66 feet. There are two towers, the taller of which is 145 feet high, while the other is 85 feet in height. The church is roofed with slate and fitted with copper cornice and gutters. The groinribs of the vaulted ceiling terminate in drop columns, which contribute a richness of effect and finish, which is one of the finest features of the church. The late John R. De Curtains was the architect and his successors, the De Curtains Sons, the contractors and builders. The church was built during the pastorate of Rev. Lawrence Shirack, C. PP. S., who personally superintended its erection. The building committee consisted of John Hambert, John Hagerman, John Birkmeyer, John Stukenborg, John B. Albers and Herman Knappschaeffer.

Rev. Henry Drees, C. PP. S., was pastor from 1868 to November, 1880; Rev. Theobald Schoch, C. PP. S., 1880 to 1885; Rev. Paulinus Trost, C. PP. S., 1885 to 1888; Rev. Alphonse Grussi, C. PP. S., 1888 to 1890; Rev. Philip Hartman, C. PP. S., 1890 to 1895; and Rev. George Hindelang, C. PP. S., 1895 to 1897. Rev. Lawrence Shirack, C. PP. S., commenced his pastorate in 1897 and served during the erection of the church building. Rev. Const. Vogelmann, C. PP. S., who followed Father Shirack, was succeeded by Rev. J. Schopp, who is the present pastor. The congregation now consists of 116 families.

St. Paul's Church is located at Sharpsburg, in Gibson township. The frame church building, 45 by 30 feet in dimensions, erected in 1874 at a cost of $1,000, was replaced in 1888 by a brick structure, 45 by 95 feet in dimen-

sions at a cost of $14,000. This was during the pastorate of Rev. William Russ, C. PP. S. In 1905 a pastoral residence of brick veneer was built by Rev. Henry Goldschmidt, C. PP. S., pastor of the church, at a total cost of $4,633. The congregation consists of 65 families. The pastors of St. Paul's Church, all of whom have been members of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood, have been the following: Rev. Paul Reuter, 1868-70; Rev. Mathias Kenk, 1870-72; Rev. Sebastian Gauter, 1872-73; Rev. Rudolph Albrederic, 1873-77; Rev. John Frericks, 1877-80; Rev. Paul Reuter, a few months in 1880; Rev. Joseph Heitz, 1881-82; Rev. August Seifert, a few months in 1882; Rev. William Russ, 1882-90; Rev. John Frericks, 1890-91; Rev. Ignatius Rauh, 1891-93; Rev. Philip Rist, 1894-97; Rev. Joseph Sailer, 1897-98; Rev. Raymud Vernimont, 1898-99; and Rev. Henry Goldschmidt, the present pastor, who took charge in 1899.

St. Bernard's Church at Burkettsville, in Granville township, was established in 1875. In the same year a frame church, 35 by 60 feet in dimensions, was erected at a cost of $1,700. A 40-foot addition was made to this church in the year 1902 at a cost of $2,500 and at the same time the church received new windows of stained glass, new pews, etc., at a cost of $600, all of these improvements being completed by the present pastor, Rev. D. A. W. Schweitzer, C. PP. S. A brick pastoral residence was completed on November 1, 1906, at a cost of $5,000, also during the pastorate of Father Schweitzer. The first regular religious services were conducted in the church in 1876 by Rev. Aloys Malin, C. PP. S., who served in 1876 and 1877, being succeeded in the latter year by Rev. John Van den Broek, C. PP. S., who was followed in the same year by Rev. Rudolph Albrederic, C. PP. S., and he by Rev. John Frericks, C. PP. S., who served from 1877 to 1879. Rev. Paul Reuter, C. PP. S., served from 1879 to 1882; Rev. William Russ, C. PP. S., 1882 to 1890; Rev. John Frericks, C. PP. S., 1890 to 1891; Rev. Ignatius Rauh, C. PP. S., 1891 to 1893; Rev. Emilius Steinach, C. PP. S., 1893 to 1895; Revs. Joseph Heitz, C. PP. S., and Norbert Groth, C. PP. S., who served short periods in 1895; Rev. Joseph Heitz, C. PP. S., who served from 1895 to 1896; Rev. Joseph Sailer, C. PP. S., 1896 to 1897; Rev. Anselm Schmid, C. PP. S., 1897; Rev. Charles Notheis, C. PP. S., 1897 to 1898; Rev. Joseph Heitz, C. PP. S., 1898 to 1899; Rev. Hugo Lear, C. PP. S., a short period in 1899; Rev. Joseph Heitz, C. PP. S., 1899 to 1901; Rev. Charles M. Romer, C. PP. S., 1901 to 1902; and Rev. D. A. W. Schweitzer, C. PP. S., the present pastor, who has served since 1902. The congregation comprises 70 families.

Church of Mary, Help of Christians, Fort Recovery.—On July 12, 1881,

the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood purchased of the heirs of Dr. Milligan a tract of 40 acres at Fort Recovery, the consideration being $7,500. The church was organized in 1882, in which year a frame church building was erected, at a cost of $1,500, under the supervision of the first pastor, Rev. August Seifert, C. PP. S., who is at present rector of St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana. The priest's residence for a short time was the Dr. Milligan family residence, which is now used by the Sisters. The old schoolhouse was then bought and used for a priest's house until 1885, when a brick one containing 11 rooms, was built at a cost of $3,000. The old frame church lasted until 1902, when the present Gothic, brick church was built at a cost of about $16,000, being dedicated on August 15, 1902. It is certainly a credit to the congregation and to Rev. Bernard Dickman, C. PP. S., who labored enthusiastically in behalf of the work and who served the congregation until his death in 1906. He was succeeded by Rev. Raphael Schmaus, C. PP. S., who is the present pastor. Rev. Louis Hefele, C. PP. S., preceded Father Dickman and Rev. Martin Dentinger, Father Hefele. The congregation is made up of 77 families.

The Church of the Most Precious Blood at Chickasaw, Marion township, is the youngest Catholic Church in Mercer County. The church edifice was built in 1897 and was at first used as a chapel for week-day services. The present parish was formerly a part of the mother parish of St. Sebastian. It was formally separated from St. Sebastian's in 1903 and its history as a distinct and separate parish dates from this year. The first pastor appointed to this parish by Archbishop Moeller, of Cincinnati, was Rev. Anthony C. Tabke, who has continued in charge since 1903. In this year an addition was built to the old chapel at a cost of $4,000 and in the following year a brick parsonage was erected as a cost of about $4,000. The congregation consists of 70 families.

For some years past a mission has been conducted at Montezuma in Franklin township and was formerly in charge of the priest of the Holy Angels' Church at Sidney, Ohio. The Church of Our Lady of Guadaloupe has recently been formed here and Rev. Cosmas Seeberger has been placed in charge as pastor *pro tem.*

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS.

The first parochial school at Celina was erected about 1876 by Rev. Th. Wittmer, C. PP. S. A building, 36 by 40 feet in dimensions and two stories high, which at a later date became the parsonage, was erected on the corner of Walnut and Wayne streets. Sister Mary Missler was the first principal,

assisted by a Sister teacher. The school prospered and grew and in 1888 Rev. Andrew Gietel, C. PP. S., built the present, two-story, brick schoolhouse, where about 300 children now receive their education. The teaching force now consists of eight Sisters of the Most Precious Blood. Sister M. Georgina is directrix.

The parochial school at Fort Recovery has an enrollment of 38 boys and 45 girls. It is taught by two Sisters of the Most Precious Blood. Sister M. Lidwina is directrix.

The parochial school at Maria Stein has about 200 pupils enrolled. The directrix is Sister M. Rosalia. The school is taught by two lay teachers and two Sisters of the Most Precious Blood.

The parochial school at Burkettsville has 42 boys enrolled and 40 girls. Sister M. Michaela is directrix. The teaching force consists of two Sisters of the Most Precious Blood.

The pupils of the parochial school at St. Henry number 212. This school is also taught by Sisters of the Most Precious Blood.

CHAPTER X

THE BENCH AND BAR OF MERCER COUNTY

THE COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS.

Regarding these courts, the constitution contained the following provision (Article 3, Section 3): "The several Courts of Common Pleas shall consist of a President and Associate Judges. The State shall be divided, by law, into three circuits; there shall be appointed in each circuit a President of the Courts, who, during his continuance in office, shall reside therein. There shall be appointed in each county not more than three nor less than two Associate Judges, who, during their continuance in office, shall reside therein. The President and Associate Judges in their respective counties, any three of whom shall be a quorum, shall compose the Court of Common Pleas."

The Judges under this provision of the first constitution were elected by the General Assembly, and under the subsequent acts of that body were as follows: 1824—John T. Greaves, Nathaniel Low and James Walcutt; 1825—Joseph Greer and Thomas Scott; 1826—John Manning; 1827—William B. Hedges; 1830—John Armstrong; 1832—Joseph Greer; 1833—John Manning; 1834—Stacey Taylor; 1836—Robert Linzee; 1837—Allen V. Medbury; 1839—David Hays; 1842-43—Robert Linzee; 1844—Allen V. Medbury; 1845—John M. Parks; 1846—Justin Hamilton and David Simpson; 1848—William McDaniel; and 1849—George W. Raudabaugh.

The constitution of 1857 provided for the election of judges by the people and divided the State into judicial districts. Mercer County is in the Third Judicial District. The districts are subdivided into First, Second and Third sub-divisions. The Third District, First Sub-division, as constituted at present, is composed of the following counties: Allen, Auglaize, Mercer, Shelby and Van Wert. From 1851 to 1879 the Third Judicial District, Second Sub-Division, was composed of the following counties: Mercer, Van Wert, Put-

nam, Paulding, Defiance, Williams, Henry and Fulton. The following have served as judges from 1852 to the present time:

Benjamin F. Metcalf, Lima, from February, 1852, to February, 1857.

Benjamin F. Metcalf, Lima, from November, 1858, to his death in March, 1865.

O. W. Rose, Van Wert (*vice* Metcalf), from March, 1865, to November, 1865.

James Mackenzie, Lima, from November, 1865, to February, 1879.

Ed. M. Phelps, St. Marys, from May, 1869, to February, 1879.

Charles M. Hughes, Lima, from February, 1879, to February, 1889.

James H. Day, Celina, from February 9, 1880, to September, 1892, when he resigned to go on the circuit bench.

John E. Richie, Lima, from February, 1889, to February, 1899.

Stephen A. Armstrong, Celina, from January, 1889, to the present time, his term expiring on the second Monday in January, 1909.

Hiram C. Glenn, Van Wert (*vice* Day), from October, 1892 to December, 1892.

William T. Mooney, St. Marys, from December, 1892, to February, 1901, when he resigned to accept a position on the circuit bench.

W. H. Cunningham, Lima, from February, 1899, to his death in 1906.

William D. Davis, Sidney (*vice* Mooney), from February, 1901, to November, 1903.

Hugh T. Mathers, Sidney, from November, 1903, to present time, his term expiring February 8, 1910.

George Quale, Lima (*vice* Cunningham), from his appointment in 1906 to the present time.

The Third Judicial Circuit is composed of 16 counties: Mercer, Van Wert, Paulding, Defiance, Henry, Putnam, Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Logan, Union, Seneca, Marion, Wyandot and Crawford. The first election of circuit judges was held in October, 1884, and the first sitting of the several circuit courts was fixed for the 9th day of February, 1885. The judges are elected in alternate years, one judge in each circuit, for a term of six years. The following have served on this bench:

Thomas J. Beer, Bucyrus, from February 9, 1885, to February 8, 1893.

John J. Moore, Ottawa, from February 9, 1885, to February 8, 1895.

Henry W. Seney, Kenton, from February 9, 1885, to his resignation, September 7, 1896.

James H. Day, Celina, from February 9, 1893, to February 8, 1905.

James L. Price, Lima, from February 9, 1895, to February 8, 1901.

John K. Rohn, Tiffin (*vice* Seney), from September 8, 1896, to November 16, 1896.

Ebenezer Finley, Bucyrus (*vice* Rohn), from November 17, 1896, to February 8, 1897.

Caleb H. Norris, Marion, from February 9, 1897, to the persent time, his term expiring February 8, 1909.

William T. Mooney, St. Marys, from February 9, 1901, to his death, November 29, 1904.

Edward Vollwrath, Bucyrus (*vice* Mooney), from November 29, 1904, to November, 1905.

Silas E. Hurin, Findley, from February 9, 1905, to the present time, his term expiring February 8, 1911.

Michael Donnelly, Napoleon, from November, 1905, to the present time, his term expiring February 8, 1912.

* * *

Among the attorneys resident in Mercer County, who practiced their profession here for any considerable period, we are able to recall the following who have died or moved elsewhere: James Watson Riley, Cyrenius Elliott, Francis C. LeBlond, Zenus Hameo, Thomas J. Godfrey, William L. Blocher, W. E. Baker, George W. Alfred, Newel L. Hibbard, Daniel J. Callen, John W. Steel, Jacob Broadwell, John P. Protzman, Alfred J. Hodder, Charles J. Brotherton, J. W. Conklin, James G. Loughridge, Keepers Alberry, Hiram Murlin, ——— Lowry, C. H. Hornbeck, Charles M. LeBlond, Archelaus D. Marsh, W. W. TouVelle, Byron M. ClenDening, J. T. Kenney, Richard S. Raudabaugh, C. S. Mouck, C. W. Cowan, Frank G. Robinson and A. W. Fishbaugh.

Of the above, James Watson Riley was one of the founders of the town of Celina; the leading facts of his life are given in Chapter III of this work. Sketches of Hon. Francis C. LeBlond, Hon. Archelaus D. Marsh and Hon. Thomas J. Godfrey appear in the biographical department of this work. The last named was the oldest member of the bar at his death, which took place November 30, 1906. The county owes Mr. Godfrey a deep debt of gratitude for his efforts in behalf of the public schools.

James G. Loughridge, at one time a leading member of the Mercer County bar, but now deceased, was born in Washington township, Mercer County, Ohio, December 29, 1839. He was a son of William C. Loughridge, one of the pioneers of Mercer County, and was educated in the common schools of Fort Recovery, St. Marys and Celina. At about the age of 17 years, he began teaching school and taught a term two miles west of Macedon, and afterward at Macedon. He also taught one term at Montezuma, and then went to California, via New York and the Isthmus of Panama, landing August 17, 1863. He remained in California about 20 months, 11 months

of which time he was bookkeeper for the St. Nicholas Hotel in Marysville and agent of the Marysville & Downieville stage line, with his headquarters at Marysville. After that he taught school at Comptonville, Yuba County, near the summit of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, 18 miles from Downieville. He then returned East, stopping at San Francisco, and coming home by way of the Nicaragua route, landing at New York in 1865. Mr. Loughridge read law in the office of Hon. Thomas J. Godfrey at Celina for about 18 months, and in 1866 went to Cincinnati, where he entered the law office of Hon. Bellamy Storer, where he read law and at the same time attended lectures at the law school of the Cincinnati College, being graduated from this institution April 17, 1867. On the same day he was admitted to the bar by Judge Jacob Brinkerhoof, of the Supreme Court of Ohio. After being admitted to the bar, he formed a partnership with John R. Perdue, and engaged in practice at Portland, Jay County, Indiana. Remaining there about one year, he then located at Celina, October 29, 1869, and for about six months afterward was in partnership with John P. Protzman. He then formed a partnership with Daniel J. Callen, the firm name being Callen & Loughridge. This partnership was in existence about six years. In 1876 he removed to Independence, Kansas, where he practiced law and ran a hotel, which was known as the Independence House. There he remained a little less than three years, when he returned to Celina, arriving there February 14, 1879. Soon after his return to Celina, he formed a partnership with Wilson Conklin, which lasted about three months. He then formed a partnership with Francis C. and Charles M. LeBlond, the firm being known as LeBlond, LeBlond & Loughridge. This firm continued until October, 1888, when Charles M. LeBlond withdrew and removed to Cleveland, Ohio. The firm then was LeBlond & Loughridge, and so continued until June 19, 1891, when John M. Schlosser became a member thereof, and the firm name became LeBlond, Loughridge & Schlosser, which continued for a period of time. The next partnership formed was with L. L. Taylor, which continued until his death in the month of January, 1902.

Frank G. Robinson, residing at Rockford, was at one time a member of the Mercer County bar. He was born and raised in Rockford and was educated in the village schools. Graduating from a law college, he was admitted to the bar and commenced the practice of the law in his native village, at the same time turning his attention to the banking business. He removed from Rockford some time ago.

A. W. Fishbaugh is a native of Mercer County. He obtained a preliminary education in the public schools and taught for a number of years, after

which he entered the Ohio Normal University at Ada, and completed the civil engineering course at that institution. Mr. Fishbaugh completed the course in the Cincinnati Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1894, but never engaged in the active practice of the law.

He was elected county surveyor of Mercer County and served in that capacity two terms or six years. Mr. Fishbaugh is still following his chosen profession, being now the chief engineer of the Fort Wayne & Springfield Railway Company.

PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE BAR.

The following are members of the Mercer County bar at the present time, although all are not in active practice: Hon. James H. Day, Hon. Stephen A. Armstrong, Hon. C. G. O. Miller, Hon. Charles S. Younger, John W. De Ford, Clarence E. Marsh, John M. Schlosser, John G. Romer, Edgar J. Brookhart, of Celina; E. E. Jackson, of Rockford; and John A. Hunter, of Fort Recovery, whose sketches appear in the biographical department of this volume; and the following, whose sketches appear herewith:—

Israel F. Raudabaugh, one of the older members of the Mercer County bar, was born in 1844, and was educated partly in Celina, but is a graduate of Mount Union College, Stark County, Ohio. He commenced active life as a school teacher and taught three years in Center County, Pennsylvania. He was superintendent of the normal schools, at Berlin, Meyersdale and Somerset. He studied law under Collum & Kimball, and was admitted to the practice in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Mr. Raudabaugh returned to Mercer County, and superintended the schools in Celina in 1871-72, and at Fort Recovery, in 1872-73. He was elected county surveyor, which office he held for three years, and settled permanently in Celina in 1872. Mr. Raudabaugh and Stephen A. Armstrong entered into partnership in the law business, which continued for some time; on the dissolution of the firm, each member continued in the practice, but Mr. Raudabaugh besides practicing law is engaged extensively in farming, and for a number of years has turned his attention to the oil business. He has been very successful in this line and has owned and operated some of the best leases that were ever developed in this territory. He is a lawyer of fine literary attainments, and is well versed in the law, but being engaged in the milling business and other pursuits, is not at present diligently following his chosen profession.

S. S. Scranton, a member of the Celina bar, was born at Fort Recovery, Mercer County, Ohio, April 23, 1848. At the age of one year he removed with his parents to a farm three miles south of Fort Recovery, where he

attended the schools that were afforded the children of that time, receiving a good common-school education. When grown to manhood he attended an academy of learning at Greenville, Ohio, and then began teaching school. After teaching a number of terms, he concluded to go to the National Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio—this was in the summer of 1867. He then resumed teaching until 1872, when he came to Celina and began to read law in the office of Hon. Thomas J. Godfrey. In 1876 he was admitted to the bar at Kenton, Ohio, and formed a partnership with J. W. Conklin, of Sidney, Ohio, which lasted for about one year. Since that time he has never been in partnership in the law. He was elected recorder of the county in 1879, and served six years in that office and at the expiration of his office he resumed the practice; in about two years he was elected to the office of probate judge of the county, and after serving six years in that office he again commenced the practice of the law, in which he has continued up to this time.

Hon. Robert L. Mattingly, oldest son of Dr. Robert Mattingly and his wife, Mary (Howard) Mattingly, late of Francesville, Indiana, was born at Martinsburg, Washington County, Indiana, February 10, 1849. His earlier education was acquired in the public and subscription schools of Pulaski County. At an early age he entered the railroad service and filled various responsible offices, in the accounting departments, during a period of 10 or more years. For a short time he taught school, and in 1876-77 was editor and proprietor of *The Hoosier Wave,* a Republican paper of Pulaski County. He was admitted to the Circuit Courts of Indiana in 1877. After some practice he entered the Central Law School of Indianapolis (law department of Butler University), and graduated with the class of 1879-80. During his attendance at law school, he was associated with Hon. M. B. Williams and engaged in practice in so far as his studies permitted. After graduating, he returned to Pulaski County and formed a partnership with Hon. Geo. Burson, at Winamac. Mr. Burson's election to the circuit bench later on terminated the partnership. He then was associated with Judge H. Burns (a law writer of note in Indiana), whose appointment on the U. S. Coast Survey by President Cleveland led to an abandonment of that field. On the 9th of April, 1885, Mr. Mattingly opened an office in Celina, and with the interruption of one term as city solicitor, and something less than a year as probate judge, he has been actively engaged in the general practice of the law. His clientage has been of a high and lucrative class that has recognized his ability as a lawyer and integrity as a man. He is well known to the members of the bar throughout Northwest Ohio.

John Wesley Loree, a leading attorney at the Celina bar, was reared on

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, CELINA

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CELINA

RESIDENCE OF C. E. RILEY, CELINA

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN AND REFORMED CHURCH, CELINA

(Now used by the Free Methodists)

his father's farm in Black Creek township, Mercer County, Ohio, where he was born July 18, 1853. He received his education in part in the old log school house of that day, attended school at Celina and spent four years at Mount Union College in Stark County. He read law in the office of LeBlond & Day, of Celina, Ohio, and was admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court of Ohio, at Columbus, April 5, 1881. A few days afterward he formed a partnership with Hon. Archelaus D. Marsh, which partnership continued for a period of 22 years, during which time the firm were engaged in nearly all of the important cases tried at the courts of the district, the law firm being recognized as one of the ablest at the Celina bar. Mr. Loree was always a close and hard-working student and prepared his cases for trial with such care that he felt assured if a case was lost that he had done all that could be done on his part to win a victory. He is recognized by the bar and bench as one of the leading lawyers not only of his own county but throughout the entire judicial district, his practice extending to the other counties of the district, as well as to the Supreme Court of Ohio. John W. Loree by his straightforward and manly course is honored and esteemed by not only the members of the profession but by the citizens generally. He was appointed county school examiner of Mercer County, August 16, 1879. In 1880 he served out the unexpired term of C. L. Clippinger as superintendent of the Celina union schools, and in 1892 he was nominated by the Democracy in his Congressional district as a candidate for presidential elector. In 1893 he was elected city solicitor of the village of Celina. At present he is a member of the Board of Education, Celina.

Patrick E. Kenney was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, December 11, 1854, and while yet a young child removed with his parents to Adams County, Indiana, where he received an education such as was given in those days by the old-time Hoosier schoolmaster in the primitive, little, log schoolhouse. The task seemed prodigious, but having been accustomed to toil and difficulties, he did not hesitate to encounter them in the role of student. He first attended the Ohio Normal University, at Ada, Ohio, and later the normal school at Valparaiso, Indiana. He afterward taught school one year in Indiana, and three years in Mercer County, Ohio. In March, 1885, he began reading law in the office of LeBlond, LeBlond & Loughridge, of Celina, and on July 9, 1887, was admitted to the bar. He immediately began the active practice of his profession, continuing until the present time. On April 16, 1890, he formed a partnership with Robert L. Mattingly, the firm being Mattingly & Kenney. After a time this association of business interests was dissolved and later on he and John G. Romer formed a law partnership, but in the course of time this was dissolved, and each one had an office alone. Mr.

Kenney's success in his profession has been most gratifying to himself and his friends, and justly ranks him among the leading members of the Celina bar. In politics he is a Democrat and has been quite active and prominent in the councils of his party. He served four years as a member of the Board of School Examiners of Mercer County. He has been elected twice to the office of prosecuting attorney of the county, serving in all six years. He was appointed by the Democratic party of the Fourth Congressional District as a delegate to the National Democratic Convention at St. Louis, in 1904.

Henry A. Miller, a well-known member of the Celina bar, has been associated with his brother, Hon. C. G. O. Miller, under the name of Miller Brothers, in the active practice of the law for the past 20 years at the Celina bar. Each member of the firm has served as prosecuting attorney of the county for two terms each. Henry A. Miller has also served as city solicitor of the village of Celina. The firm of Miller Brothers is recognized as one of the leading law firms of the Celina bar; its members have won distinction for themselves in their profession.

The well-known law firm of TouVelle & Ford of the Celina bar is composed of Hon. William E. TouVelle and Emmett T. Ford, both of whom have proved themselves to be lawyers of recognized ability. They are both graduates of the Cincinnati Law School and commenced the practice of the law at Celina, Mr. Ford first having his office with Hon. Thomas J. Godfrey, and Mr. TouVelle first forming a partnership with the Hon. J. T. Kenney, which continued for a number of years, when Mr. Kenney concluded to move to Madison, Wisconsin. Then the firm of Tou Velle & Ford was formed, which is still doing business. Both of its members are young men, well educated in literary as well as legal lore, and have won the esteem of their fellow members of the bar, as well as the public generally. The result is that they have a good and growing practice. Hon. William E. TouVelle, the senior member of the firm, has the honor of being the only man to be elected from his county in the Lower House of Congress of the United States in the past 40 years—he was elected in 1906 by the Democratic party from the Fifth Congressional District, composed of the counties of Mercer, Darke, Shelby, Auglaize and Allen.

Hon. James D. Johnson, one of the leading attorneys at the Celina bar, is a native of Black Creek township, Mercer County, Ohio, in the schools of which township he received a common-school education. Being ambitious to get a higher education by his own efforts, he succeeded in obtaining a classical education at Delaware, Ohio. Having determined to become a

lawyer, he came to Celina and commenced the study of the law in the office of Hon. Thomas J. Godfrey and then attended the Cincinnati Law School, from which he graduated with high honors. Commencing the practice at Celina, he entered into a partnership with Hon. Stephen A. Armstrong, which continued for a long period of time, until the Judge went on the bench, James D. Johnson still continues to practice and has been one of the most successful practitioners at the Celina bar, winning a name and fame for himself. He has been employed in some of the most famous cases that have been tried in our courts, and is recognized as an able advocate before a jury, seldom failing to convince the jury and court of the allegations made in his pleadings. He is held in high esteem by not only the members of the bar, but has had the honor of holding a number of minor offices obtained by the votes of his fellow townsmen, having been especially honored by the voters of his senatorial district, having been twice nominated by the Democratic party and both times elected to a seat as a State Senator, which office he filled acceptably, with credit to himself and honor to his party.

John Kramer was born at Minster, Auglaize County, Ohio, May 16, 1868, and was educated in the schools of the village. He read law at Sidney, Shelby County, Ohio, with Hon. W. D. Davies, who was afterward appointed one of the common pleas judges of the district. Mr. Kramer was a student at the Cincinnati Law School and was graduated from that institution of learning in 1893. He was admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court of Ohio, at Columbus, and at once opened a law office in his native village. He came to Celina in 1895, opened a law office and resumed the practice, making the commercial branch of the law a specialty, in which he has attained success to a remarkable degree. Mr. Kramer is an active, energetic and progressive lawyer, and usually accomplishes whatever he undertakes. He is looked upon as one of the active members of the Celina bar.

Frank V. Short was born near Loramie, Shelby County, Ohio, November 8, 1867. After securing a common-school education in the schools of Paulding, Shelby, Darke and Mercer counties, he attended the Ohio Normal University at Ada, Ohio. He then taught school in Mercer County for three years, and finished the law course at Ada, May 17, 1896. He was admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court of Ohio, June 25, 1896. He came to Celina, June 30, 1896, and formed a partnership with Byron M. ClenDening, with whom he continued for about two years in the practice of the law, when Mr. ClenDening left for Cincinnati, Ohio. He later formed a partnership with Robert L. Mattingly, which continued for about two years, being dissolved January 1, 1900, since which time he has practiced law alone. He was elected

to the office of justice of the peace in 1900, which office he has held to the present time. He was elected a member of the Celina Board of Education and has been president of the board since 1904.

Ed. L. Bryson belongs to the younger class of lawyers of the Celina bar. He was educated in the public schools of Celina, and is a graduate of the Cincinnati Law School. He commenced the practice of his profession by forming a partnership with Richard S. Raudabaugh, a young lawyer who was born and raised in this community, educated in the public schools of Celina and who was also a graduate of the Cincinnati Law School. This partnership continued until a few years ago, when Mr. Raudabaugh, retiring, moved to Lansing, Michigan. Mr. Bryson still retains the same location the firm had. In addition to his law business, he is engaged in the real estate and loaning business on an extensive scale.

L. L. Taylor, a graduate of the Cincinnati Law School, is one of the youngest members of the Celina bar. He commenced the practice at Celina in partnership with James G. Loughridge, which partnership lasted as long as Mr. Loughridge lived. Since that time Mr. Taylor has occupied the same office. It may well be said he is one of the rising young lawyers of the Celina bar, where he has already acquired quite an extensive practice.

Robert B. Landfair, one of the younger members of the Celina bar, was born, reared and educated at Celina. He is a graduate of the Cincinnati Law School, and commenced the practice of the law at Celina, where he has won the distinction of being one of the ablest advocates at the bar. Mr. Landfair is recognized as being a skillful trial lawyer, well versed in the law; he handles his cases with ease and skill.

Orvelle Raudabaugh is the youngest member of the Celina bar. He was born and raised in Mercer County, Ohio, and received an excellent education in the public schools of the county. He was a student at the Ohio State University, at Columbus, Ohio, and on June 2, 1904, received the degree of Bachelor of Law, and was admitted to practice by the Supreme Court of Ohio. He came to Celina in the fall of 1905, and bought the office of Charles S. Younger, and commenced the practice of his profession. We all recognize in Mr. Raudabaugh the elements of a good lawyer—he is active, energetic and studious, and we predict for him a bright future.

A. G. Stewart is a member of the Mercer County bar. He is a resident of Rockford, moving to that place from Lima, Ohio, and engaging in the practice. He has been honored by the citizens of the village by being elected mayor of the town, and enjoys a good practice.

CHAPTER XI

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION OF MERCER COUNTY

CELINA.

One of the earliest physicians at Celina was Dr. Herschel, who located here in 1842. Dr. Samuel Milligan came the following year, Dr. Fulton in 1844, and Dr. Hayes in 1848. In 1850 Dr. Joseph N. Hetzler entered upon his practice, which continued for a very extended period. Dr. Hutchinson and Dr. James Taylor also located here in 1850. Dr. J. B. Finley took up his practice here in 1853, Dr. M. M. Miller in 1856 and Dr. Chr. Miller in 1860. The following is a list of the physicians who practiced in Celina for greater or less periods and who are either now deceased or have moved away: Drs. David Bush, S. N. TouVelle, F. C. LeBlond, Jr., J. N. Hammond, N. T. Noble, John Lisle, L. P. Lisle, Mrs. Lida Lisle, A. V. Medbury, Leroy Pence, Bradford and H. A. Raudabaugh.

The following is a list of the present physicians of the village: Drs. Joseph Sager, G. J. C. Wintermute, David H. Richardson, J. E. Hattery, Robert E. Riley, Arlington Stephenson, T. P. Taylor, S. R. Wilson, W. C. Stubbs, Frank E. Ayers, L. D. Brumm, H. J. Cordier, Bingaman, I. J. Ransbottom and Louisa A. Wittenmeyer.

ROCKFORD.

Among the earliest physicians of Rockford were: Drs. Tippie, Budd, Crane, Kirby and McDonald. Other old-time physicians were: Drs. William Lynch, J. N. Hammond, J. A. Estill, A. C. Vaughn, D. W. Estill and H. C. McGavren. Rockford at the present time has six physicians, namely: Drs. Hughes, Vaughn, Downing, J. P. Symons, Wesley W. Beauchamp and Ward C. Zeller.

FORT RECOVERY.

Dr. J. S. Fair was the first physician to locate here. Dr. John C. Richardson also was among the first and Dr. Dixon Milligan located here at an early day. Dr. Bruce Richardson was here about the year 1860. Drs. W. J. Brewington, J. W. Blizzard and James Adams were formerly in practice here. The village has five physicians at the present time, namely: Drs. J. V. Richardson, W. R. Taylor, Martyn Taylor, W. C. Robeson and J. M. Buchannan.

MENDON

Has two resident physicians at the present time: Drs. P. W. Fishbaugh and John W. Ridenour. Among those who practiced here in the past were: Drs. A. J. Leininger, D. F. Parrott, G. R. Hagerman, J. B. Haines, M. M. Miller and J. M. Miller.

* * *

The following list gives the names of the physicians located elsewhere in the county:

Burkettsville.—Dr. Inman.

Chattanooga.—Drs. Price T. Waters and G. R. Hagerman.

Chickasaw.—Dr. Henry G. Rawers.

Coldwater.—Drs. Charles W. Mackenbach, Christopher F. Bolman and P. F. Weamer.

Maria Stein.—Dr. A. J. Willke.

Mercer.—Dr. William Nuding.

Montezuma.—Dr. L. T. Arthur.

Neptune.—Dr. R. P. Langel.

St. Henry.—Drs. J. A. Schirack and J. J. Mory.

Wabash.—Dr. M. B. Fishbaugh.

THE MERCER COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

Was organized February 10, 1903, with the following members: Drs. H. J. Cordier, J. P. Symons, M. B. Fishbaugh, P. W. Fishbaugh, P. F. Weamer, Joseph N. Hetzler, S. R. Wilson, Joseph Sager, L. D. Brumm, G. J. C. Wintermute, W. C. Stubbs, David H. Richardson and R. P. Langel. At this meeting a committee, consisting of Drs. P. F. Weamer, H. J. Cordier and R. P. Langel, were appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws for the society. The committee reported on March 10th and the society adopted the constitution and by-laws. The following officers were elected: Dr. G. J. C. Wintermute, president; Dr. Christopher F. Bolman, vice-president; Dr. David

H. Richardson, secretary; Dr. J. E. Hattery, treasurer; and Drs. Joseph Sager, P. F. Weamer, and S. R. Wilson, censors. The following are the officers for 1907: Dr. Joseph Sager, president; Dr. Frank E. Ayers, vice-president; Dr. W. C. Stubbs, secretary; and Dr. David H. Richardson, treasurer. The society has 17 members in good standing.

CHAPTER XII

MILITARY RECORD OF MERCER COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR

17TH REGIMENT, OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY.

This regiment originated in a company of 32 men, raised under the militia laws of the State, at Lancaster, Ohio, by Joseph A. Stafford. Four days after the attack on Fort Sumter, Captain Stafford had his company filled. They were assigned as Company A, First Reg., Ohio Vol Inf.

Sergeants Nichols and Geisy and Private Stinchcomb were detailed to recruit another company, in Fairfield County. By the 20th of April, 185 men had been recruited, and on the 27th two companies, instead of one, were organized, Sergeant Geisy being elected captain of one, and Private Stinchcomb of the other. The second call of the President for troops found these two companies in camp at Lancaster, Ohio. They were then made the nucleus of the 17th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., for the three months' service. A few days later, Captain Acton, of Madison County, Captain Haynes, of the same county, Capt. Lyman Jackson, of Perry, Capt. C. A. Baker, of Hocking, Capt. F. F. Pond, of Morgan, Captain Stone, of Mercer, Captain Thrall, of Licking, and Captain Tallman, of Belmont, each reported with a company, and organized a regiment by electing field officers.

On the 20th of April, the 17th Regiment left Zanesville for Bellaire. Embarking at Benwood (across the river), they reached Marietta on Sunday afternoon, and the next day started for Parkersburg, (West) Virginia. The regiment was then brigaded with the Ninth and Fourth Ohio, General Rosecrans being brigade commander. Its first duty was to guard trains at Clarksburg, (West) Virginia. Company F was sent to guard two trains of provisions to Clarksburg and return. Companies A and B were detailed as guard to General McClellan. Companies I, F, G and K were sent down the river on an expedition, under Major Steele, with sealed orders, not to be opened until Blennerhassett's Island was passed. One company was put off

at Larue, and the others proceeded to Ripley Landing, and crossed over to Ripley, the seat of Jackson County, (West) Virginia. Both detachments were to operate against guerrillas. The two Wises—father and son—were operating in that section, and boasted that they would "annihilate the Yankees on sight," but took good care to avoid these same Yankees. O. Jennings Wise had attempted "cleaning out" the two companies of the 17th near Ravenswood, but had failed ingloriously. The elder Wise, enraged that his son did not bring with him the two companies of Yankees, swore that he would bring them himself. A young lady, of near Charleston, was advised by a mulatto boy of Wise's intentions, and on the evening of July 1st started on horseback for Ravenswood, by way of by-roads and cow-paths. At daybreak she notified Captain Stinchcomb of the danger, and before Wise reached Ravenswood a courier arrived at Parkersburg, and reinforcements were on the march from Larue (West) Virginia, and Hockingport and Gallipolis, Ohio. On learning of this, Governor Wise retired to Ripley in great haste.

The two companies garrisoned Ravenswood until July 10, after which they reported at Buckhannon, (West) Virginia. The other five companies, under Colonel Connell, left the railroad at Petroleum, and marched to Buckhannon, where, on the 4th of July, they were surrounded by 1,500 Rebels, but by reinforcement of the 10th Ohio, under Colonel Lytle, were able to hold the position. The regiment afterward occupied and fortified Sutton, (West) Virginia. On August 3, 1861, the regiment, already having served over time, started for home; arrived at Zanesville, Ohio, August 13th; and two days later was mustered out of service.

Efforts were at once made to reorganize the regiment, for the three years' service, and on the 30th of August it assembled at Camp Dennison, named in honor of Ohio's war Governor. Through the efforts of Lieutenant Roop, one of the Mercer County's best soldiers, we are enabled to give the muster-roll of Company I, of this regiment. This company was probably composed of as large men as any company in the service. Of the 90 men, rank and file, 36 were six feet and upward in height, while the average weight throughout the company was 161½ pounds. Fifty-one of the men were violinists, and the captain was a minister of the Gospel. This company enjoys the distinction of being the first body of men to enter the service from Mercer County.

Muster-roll of Company I, 17th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., mustered into service April 17, 1861: Captain, William D. Stone; 1st lieutenant, Preston R. Galloway; 2nd lieutenant, David J. Roop; sergeants—Alexander A. Knapp, John Swain, James W. Carlin and John Prescott; corporals—Jesse S. Clum, Frank Ely, Theodore P. TouVelle and Flavius M. Black; musicians—Elijah Colton and Wilson S. Lipps; privates—Gideon Boben-

myer, Martin Bobenmyer, David A. Butcher, John W. Butcher, William Boyle, Levi Cavender, William H. Clark, William F. Davidson, Philip Dearworth, Isaac B. Deiter, Charles Dilworth, Marion Dunwoody, John A. Dye, William Edmiston, James Ellis, Joshua Ellis, William H. Fair, Sylvester W. Faulkner, John Ferrell, Abraham Foster, Aaron Franklin, Jasper Franklin, Jeremiah Franklin, John W. Franklin, George Frazier, Henry Frazier, Joseph George, William Gilbert, Jonathan H. Herron, Isaac Hodge, John C. Hoover, Isaac Isenhart, James Jackson, Miles Kintz, George Lipps, Henry Lipps, George W. Loughridge, Samuel Leseney, William Mann, Levi Matchet, James McDaniel, Samuel A. McMurray, Thomas Meeks, Henry C. Mongar, Murphy Martin, Nathaniel Myers, Abraham Nesbit, Samuel A. Nickerson, Elijah Oaks, James Overly, Charles A. Paine, Theodore Parker, Mathias Pope, Theodore R. Porter, Finley Pritchard, William Ransbottom, John T. Ratliff, Lemuel M. Reeves, Robert Ruling, Nathaniel Rulon, George Sanborn, Morron H. Scott, Jacob Sheppy, Daniel Shipley, James Sneeds, Nelson Snyder, Zattu Z. Steel, George H. Stowell, James A. Spillman, Judiah W. Throp, Charles L. Toner, William H. Topping, Lorenzo D. Vankirk, Absalom Wallingsford, Calvin Welcher, John W. Williams and Benjamin F. Williams.

40TH REGIMENT, OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY.

This regiment was organized at Camp Chase, Ohio, and left that camp for East Kentucky December 11, 1861. It proceeded by rail to Paris, Kentucky, then marched to Paintville, where it formed a junction with the regiment of Colonel Garfield, then moving up the Sandy.

On January 10, 1862, the regiment took part in the action with Humphrey Marshall at Middle Creek, and then went into camp at Paintville, where it suffered greatly from sickness. It then moved to Piketon, in February, where, connected with a Kentucky regiment, it formed an outpost until June 13th, when it moved to Prestonburg. About a month later this place was abandoned, and the 40th Ohio went to Louisa, but on September 13th moved to the mouth of the Sandy, and a few days later was ordered to Gallipolis, Ohio. In October it moved to Guyandotte, (West) Virginia, and on the 14th of November received orders to return to Eastern Kentucky. It started for Nashville, February 20, 1863, and on arrival was assigned to the First Brigade, First Division, Reserve Corps, then at Franklin, which point was reached in March, in time to join the forced march in pursuit of Van Dorn. On April 10th, while the 40th Ohio was on picket near Franklin, Van Dorn attacked the line with a strong force, but suffered a severe repulse by this regiment alone. In June the regiment moved to Triune, and on the

23rd of the month the Reserve Corps moved forward, forming the right of Rosecrans' army in its advance on Shelbyville, Wartrace and Tullahoma. The regiment was then stationed at the two latter places until September 7th, when the corps pushed forward to assist in the movement at Chattanooga. The regiment participated in the battle of Chickamauga, where it lost heavily; and falling back to Chattanooga, encamped at Moccasin Point, near Lookout, but finally went into winter quarters at Shellmound, Tennessee, where four companies re-enlisted.

On the 24th of November the regiment participated in the battle of Lookout Mountain, and won great distinction. It then returned to Shellmound. In January, 1864, it was again in motion, and on the 6th of February went into camp near Cleveland, Tennessee. On the 22nd it reconnoitered Dalton, and returned to camp on the 28th. On May 2nd it entered upon the Atlanta campaign, and was under fire almost all the time after reaching Dalton. At Pilot Knob, Georgia, Companies A, B, C and D were mustered out, on the 7th of October. The other companies remained with the Fourth Corps in the pursuit of Hood and the retreat before Pulaski.

At Nashville, Tennessee, in December, those who did not veteranize were mustered out, while those who remained were consolidated with the 51st Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf.

After the consolidation of this regiment with the 51st Ohio, the combined regiment was transported with the Fourth Army Corps to New Orleans, and thence to Texas, where it performed guard duty at Victoria for several months. It was finally mustered out of service, December 3, 1865, at Camp Chase, Ohio, from which place the men returned to their homes.

The following is the muster-roll of Company K, 40th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., which was recruited at Fort Recovery in the fall of 1861 and mustered into the service at Camp Chase, Ohio: Captain, Alexander A. Knapp; 1st lieutenant, David J. Roop; 2nd lieutenant, Byron B. Allen; sergeants—Charles L. Toner, William H. Topping, George W. Williams, Obed H. Beardslee and Benjamin F. Williams; corporals—John P. Dearworth, Daniel Leseney, James B. McDonald, David J. Galeanor, Thomas McAfee, John E. Meyers, David Miller and Henry Hoyd; musicians—Joel S. Hoyt and Francis M. Crouch; teamster, David J. Beardslee; privates—Martin Butler, Jacob Bingham, Hiram L. Clum, Elijah Colton, Charles Carmack, Ephraim Carmack, Andrew J. Casebeer, George W. Coon, David Crouch, Thomas Collins, George Clark, Nathan W. Cole, Thomas H. Denney, William Denney, Jasper Denney, James R. Dye, John A. Dye, Frank Ely, Frederick Ely, William H. Fought, Aaron Franklin, George W. Franklin, Jasper E. Franklin, John Granger, Patrick Gaggen, John C. Gray, William Harry, James Hedrick, Michael Houck, Elijah H. Hunter, Christian Hempsmire, Michael

Kester, George Kester, David Kester, John Kennard, Samuel Leseney, Joseph Lipps, George Lipps, Nathaniel Myers, James H. McDonald, John E. McDaniel, Alfred McFeely, John McGee, James Z. Mott, Hezekiah Root, Henry Stickleman, Andrew J. Stickleman, James Stretchberry, Robert Stretchberry, Irvin I. Smith, Washington Smith, James Smith, Adam Shatto, John Shatto, John Sutherland, Francis Steel, Marion Scott, Oscar Snyder, George Topping, John W. Williams, Benoni Wells, William Wells, Daniel Waldron, Jonathan Woodring, John Butcher, Joseph Arbaugh, Asberry Schwartz, William T. McDonald, John L. Constable, Solomon J. Collins, John Winters, Joseph H. Fox and Thomas Snyder.

The following members of Company K veteranized, being mustered into the veteran organization at Shellmound, Georgia, on February 2, 1864: Charles Carmack, Andrew J. Casebeer, George Clark, John P. Dearworth, William Denney, James R. Dye, Frederick Ely, Jasper E. Franklin, David J. Galeanor, Elisha H. Hunter, Joseph Lipps, George Lipps, Samuel Leseney, John E. McDaniel, Alfred McFeely, James Z. Mott, Hezekiah Root, Adam Shatto, Marion Scott, Francis Steel, Oscar Snyder, James Stretchberry, Charles L. Toner, George W. Topping, John W. Williams, George W. Williams, Benjamin F. Williams, Benoni Wells and Jonathan Woodring.

71ST REGIMENT, OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY.

This regiment was largely recruited in Miami, Mercer and Auglaize counties by B. S. Kyle and G. W. Andrews. The organization was completed about the first of February, 1862. Rodney Mason was appointed colonel by Governor Dennison.

Early in February the regiment reported to General Sherman at Paducah, Kentucky. About the 25th of February General Sherman determined to make a reconnoissance toward Columbus, and took half of the 71st Ohio and half of the 55th Illinois, and with a large Mississippi steamer passed down to Cairo and was joined by two mortar-boats and three gunboats. The Rebels were found evacuating Columbus, and the 71st hastened to occupy the summit overlooking the river and town. After three days the regiment returned to Paducah to join the general advance up the Tennessee. In this movement they were the first troops to reach Pittsburg Landing. The regiment was brigaded with the 54th Ohio and the 55th Illinois, and was commanded by Colonel Stewart.

At seven o'clock on the morning of April 6, 1862, when Colonel Mason was giving instructions to line officers, an orderly rode up with a written notice that the center of the line had been attacked. In less than five minutes the regiment was in line of battle, and Colonel Stewart dashed up to consult Colonel

Mason as to disposition of troops. General Sherman had located the brigade on the extreme left, and was himself near the right and center, two miles off when the battle began. Colonel Mason suggested that the line be at once formed and that the brigade be moved to the left where the enemy was apparently concentrating. This suggestion was carried into effect without any artillery assistance. The 55th Illinois was placed on the left, the 54th Ohio on the center, and the 71st Ohio on the right of the line. A heavy cannonade was opened on the line, and Colonel Mason ordered the regiment to retire 300 yards, where it was slightly sheltered by an elevation. The enemy soon approached with two batteries. The attack was terrible, but the regiment held its ground stubbornly, grandly. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon, with the other regiments the 71st Ohio retired, but in the severest rally displayed such gallantry as to merit the commendation of the superior officers. On Monday the regiment was again actively engaged and behaved with daring and courage. In the battle 130 men were either killed or wounded.

On the 16th of April the regiment was ordered to hold the posts of Fort Donelson and Clarksville. On August 18th Colonel Mason, with less than 200 effective men, was asked to surrender Clarksville by Woodward at the head of a force four times as great as that of Mason. The surrender was a necessity. A few days later the line officers were dismissed from the service and Colonel Mason was cashiered. When the facts became more fully known, the War Department revoked the order and the officers were all honorably discharged.

After the troops were exchanged, four companies on the 25th of August, 1862, met and defeated Woodward's force at Fort Donelson. The regiment then joined the forces of General Lowe, and went into winter quarters at Fort Henry.

On the 3rd of February, 1863, the regiment went on an expedition to Fort Donelson, but the enemy retreated. During the latter part of the year the regiment was stationed along the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, with headquarters at Gallatin.

Early in 1864 it moved South, and behaved with great gallantry in several skirmishes. It next took part in the battle of Nashville and displayed splendid courage. Shortly afterwards it was ordered to Texas, where through the summer of 1865 the officers and men did their duty, and thought it harder than on the field of battle. It was finally discharged at Camp Chase, in January, 1866. After the death of one officer in the first battle and the subsequent dismissal of the others, the rank and file proved themselves made of sterner stuff than that demanding dismissal, and attested their courage on several bloody fields.

Company A.—Sergeants—George A. Platt and William Beauchamp;

corporal, J. W. Bennett; privates—C. W. Bodkin, H. Beaghler, G. A. Blocher, Martin H. Fowler, William Houser, M. F. Hunter, A. P. Lehman, A. J. Leininger, G. W. Loughridge, Adam Mohl, Lewis Platt, J. J. Phillips, William Preston (died August 20, 1864, at Tullahoma, Tennessee), J. W. Reynolds, B. Robbins, Josiah Shipman, John Sprague, Joshua W. Sprague, Philip Smith, J. S. Swartz, Jasper Temple, John Tilton, George TouVelle and Lewis York.

Company C.—Private, Thomas Mitchell.

Company D.—2nd lieutenant, Levi L. Dysert; privates—W. W. Cross, H. A. W. Collins, Jacob Fast, A. O. French, Bernard Gaven, G. Koeppler, A. Keyser, A. Lammire, H. C. Hankins, J. W. Smith, G. W. Wooden, Joel M. Whitley, J. B. Wolf and G. W. Wolf.

Company G.—Private, William Borger.

Company H.—Captain, Gideon Le Blond; 1st lieutenant, Joseph N. Hetzler; 2nd lieutenant, Alexander Gable; privates—William A. Addy, Frederick Amrine (died June 8, 1862), George Andrews, Daniel Andrews, George Ashbaugh, John Apgar, Sebastian Boetson, Abraham Beatle (died at Shiloh), Joseph Bartle, Martin Bubmire, George A. Blocher, Fred. Bryan, Jacob Cron, William Campbell, Frederick Clatte, John Cron, Clemons Cole, Daniel Coffman, Samuel Circle, Emil P. Doblerman (died April 16, 1862), James Epperson, William Ellis (transferred to Company A), John A. Erhart (died January 26, 1862), George W. Freshour, George Frederick, Milton Franklin, Isaac Felver, John W. Franklin, Frank Fortman, Jesse Freeman, H. M. Franklin, Moses Felver, Henry Gohamire, John Gaul, Israel Hull, Jackson Hedges, Henry L. Johnston, John Jones, Stanton Judkins, J. G. Juell, Charles Jones, Daniel Keller, Jacob Keller, Miles Kintz, C. E. Le Blond, Robert Laramore, James Laramore (died May 6, 1862), A. H. Lacey, Lafayette LeBlond, Vitus Lime, Henry C. Mack, Samuel Miland, John Miller, William M. Morrison, Lewis H. McLeod, Elisha Martz, Berry Miller, (died April 7, 1862), Allen McKee (died May 5, 1862), James Mercer, Thomas Meeks, Michael Miller, Joseph C. McIntire, Isaac Nelson, John A. Nutt, Nicholas Obringer, John Purdy (died June 15, 1862), John Roberts (died March 25, 1862), S. Runkles, Aug. Rhoman (died May 6, 1862), N. P. Stretchberry, Wesley Simmons, Peter Seibert, George Schwable, Philip Stachler, William Shively (died), Mathias Stachler, David Stoner, Frank Slusser, Charles Stueve, Bernard Studer, Martin Stuckee (transferred to Company A), A. J. Slotterback, Thomas B. Spry, John Sunday, Job Thorp, William Tester, Henry Taylor, John Trump (died May 11, 1862), Paul Wehrkamp, Frank Walker, W. S. Wilson, David Widener, William C. Wilson, and W. H. Winterood.

118TH REGIMENT, OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY.

This regiment, eight companies strong, was sent to Cincinnati in September, 1862, as that city was then threatened by Gen. Kirby Smith. The ninth company was here formed, and the regiment mustered into the service. In late September it moved, under Gen. A. J. Smith, toward Lexington, Kentucky, but at Cynthiana was detached to guard the railroad. Patrol and guard duty were performed and Rebel recruiting largely prevented. On August 8, 1863, it went *via* Lexington and Louisville, to Lebanon, Kentucky, and on the 20th set out for East Tennessee. On November 10th Kingston was reached, and a few days later the Rebels cut the communication between that point and Knoxville. Picket duty became arduous, in order to prevent a surprise from Wheeler's cavalry.

The victories at Knoxville and Chattanooga relieved the Kingston garrison, and on December 9th the regiment reached Nashville, and from there went to Blain's Cross Roads, and finally to Mossy Creek, to support Elliott's cavalry. On the 29th, the Rebel cavalry under Martin and Armstrong assaulted General Elliott, at Panther's Creek, whereupon he fell back to Mossy Creek. As the cavalry approached, the regiment took position in the edge of a piece of woods, when the Rebel force moved directly upon them. When the enemy approached within a hundred yards, the regiment opened a rapid fire, which was kept up about two hours, when it charged the Rebels and drove them over the crest of a hill. In this action the 118th Ohio lost about 40, killed and wounded. It was handled with great skill by Lieutenant-Colonel Young, and was commanded by General Elliott.

While in East Tennessee, the regiment suffered great privations, and subsisted about six months on half and quarter rations. They had neither sugar nor coffee for four months. Clothing was also short, but with all this the troops never murmured, but were even cheerful.

The regiment was engaged in marching and counter-marching until the campaign of 1864. One march of 100 miles, to Charleston, was made in five days. On May 4, 1864, the regiment encamped at the State line. Here all baggage was sent to the rear. On the 7th the regiment moved upon Dalton, and from there advanced upon Resaca. On the afternoon of the 14th, it participated in a charge on the enemy's works, and lost 116 men, in less than 10 minutes, out of 300 men actually engaged. On the 15th the engagement was renewed, but that night Johnston retired to Cassville, which he abandoned, on the approach of the Federal forces. After a few days' rest, the regiment went into the desperate battles of Dallas and Pumpkin-Vine Creek, and bore a gallant and honorable part. It was afterwards engaged at Kenesaw Mountain, at the Chattahoochie, at Utoy Creek, and in the final movements about

Atlanta. In these operations, about 75 men were lost. During 121 consecutive days, the regiment was within hearing of hostile firing every day except one. During 60 consecutive days, it was under fire 60 different times, and during one week there probably was not a period of five minutes during which the whistling of a ball or the scream of a shell could not be heard.

After the fall of Atlanta, the regiment fell back to Decatur, where, after a short rest, it joined in the pursuit of Hood, as far as Gaylesville, Alabama. On the 23rd of November, it went to Johnstonville, Tennessee, and then to Columbia, to join the army confronting Hood, finally reaching Franklin, on the 30th. The brigade was drawn up in single line, its right resting on the Williamsburg pike, and its left at the Locust Grove, this regiment being second from the right. The enemy struck the line to the left of this regiment. The shock was terrific, but the line stood firm, and poured a terrible fire into the Confederate column. The troops fought desperately, the men using bayonets, and the officers side-arms, over the very breastworks. By daylight the 118th Ohio was across the river, and falling back on Nashville, where it was again engaged. After the battle of Nashville, it participated in the pursuit of the Rebels, as far as Columbia, and then went to Clifton.

From there it proceeded to North Carolina, and on January 16, 1865, it embarked for Cincinnati on the steamer "J. D. Baldwin," and from Cincinnati proceeded to Washington City, which was reached January 27, 1865. On February 11th, it embarked on a steamer at Alexandria, landed at Smithville, at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, moved immediately on Fort Anderson, captured it and was the first regiment to plant its colors on the walls. On February 20th, it engaged in a sharp action at Town Creek, in which 300 prisoners and two pieces of artillery were captured, and then entered Wilmington on the 22nd. On the 6th of March, it moved to Kingston, then to Goldsboro, and joined Sherman's army on the 23rd of March. It then camped at Mosely Hall until April 9th, when it participated in the final operations against Johnston. It then camped near Raleigh until May 3rd, when it moved to Greensboro and then to Salisbury, where it remained until June 24th when it was mustered out of the service. The regiment arrived at Cleveland, Ohio, June 2nd, was welcomed by Chief-Justice Chase, participated in a Fourth of July celebration, and was finally discharged on the 9th of July, 1865, having first gone into camp at Lima, Ohio, in August, 1862.

Company A.—Private, O. C. Lamond.

Company C.—Captain, William D. Stone (wounded at Resaca, May 14, 1864); 2nd lieutenant, John S. Rhodes (promoted to captain); sergeants—Jesse Clum (promoted to lieutenant), and James W. McDaniel; corporals—James H. Ellis (died at New Market, Tennessee, June 23, 1864), Enos Harrod (killed at Atlanta, Georgia, January 1, 1863), Henry Johnston (promoted to sergeant), and James H. Johnston; teamster, John A. Ellis (died at

Falmouth, Kentucky); privates—Henry Bobenmeyer, Ezekiel Brown (died at Townsend's Bridge, April 11, 1863), Ira P. Burk, John Burkle, George O. Circle, John Clements (wounded by wagon running over him), William Clements, John H. Collins (promoted), James P. Downs, John A. Doner, George Dunwoody, Marion Dunwoody, Mathias Fleighler, Samuel Garber, George Hedrick, Francis M. Hinton, Stephen Johnston (wounded at Resaca, May 14, 1864), Dennis Kelley (wounded at Resaca, May 14, 1864), Charles Kline, George R. McDaniel, Michael McDaniel, John McGee, George Martin, James Meeks (died at Knoxville, Tennessee, February 12, 1864), John Myers, George Patton, William Preston (a veteran of the Mexican War, who with his three sons was in the Civil War—he was in his 72nd year while in Company C), Milton W. Schroyer, Joseph Steen and J. Tebold.

Company D.—Privates.—Daniel Crabtree, Edson Stowell, Jacob Tawney, J. S. Clum and William Short.

Company E.—Privates.—James Frazier, C. A. Kelley, W. Sullivan, E. N. Rice, M. Simison, John H. Murlin and George Rockwell.

Company I.—Private, Gideon Bobenmeyer.

156TH. REGIMENT, OHIO NATIONAL GUARD.

This regiment was organized at Camp Dennison, Ohio, on the 4th of May, 1864, by the consolidation of the 34th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., with the 80th and 81st regiments, Ohio National Guard. It was mustered into the United States service with an aggregate of 864 men.

On the 20th of May, Companies A, B, C, D, E, F and H, were placed on guard duty at Cincinnati, while G, I and K remained at Camp Dennison until the Morgan demonstrations, when these companies were sent to Falmouth, Kentucky. In July, the whole regiment was brought together at Covington, and then moved to Paris, Kentucky. It was soon ordered to Cumberland, Maryland, which place it reached on the 31st of July. The next day the regiment passed out on the Baltimore pike, about three miles, where it met the enemy under McCausland and Bradley Johnson, and, although exposed to a severe artillery fire, maintained itself in a very commendable manner. The engagement lasted from 4 in the afternoon to 9 o'clock in the evening. The regiment lay on its arms during the night, but daylight showed that the enemy had retreated. After this engagement, the regiment remained on duty about Cumberland until the 26th of August, when it was ordered to Ohio to be mustered out. On the 1st of September the regiment was discharged at Camp Dennison, Ohio.

Company I.—Captain, C. B. Collins; 1st lieutenant, Daniel Brookhart; 2nd lieutenant, Thomas Spangler; sergeants—J. M. Hussey, Smith Townsend, J. W. Presho, W. H. Brookhart and G. W. Bogart; corporals—J. H. Murlin, Miles Rider, H. T. Younger, James Miller, S. Brookhart, J. Custer,

W. L. Drury and E. C. Webb; privates—G. A. Albert, G. Bruggerman, J. Bowman, James Blosser, J. Brookhart, William Buck, L. T. Brookhart, Oliver Black (discharged September 12, 1864), James P. Bodkins (discharged at Cumberland, September 25, 1864), Greenbury S. Buxton (died at Camp Dennison, January 15, 1864), George Buxton (died at Camp Dennison, September 5, 1864), Isaac N. Buxton (discharged at Cumberland, September 25, 1864), Francis M. Buxton (discharged at Cumberland, September 25, 1864), J. Craft, W. Copeland, L. T. Clark, H. Clark, J. Clinsmith, J. C. Davis, J. B. Davis, J. Deidrich, C. Deidrich, W. H. Drury, Philander Davis, Peter Davis, William H. DeFord, J. P. Edwards, William Eichar, A. J. Fast, A. J. Foreman, E. D. Fowler, B. F. Felker, G. W. Fent, Charles Frank (discharged at Cumberland, September 25, 1864), Jacob Guy, William Gruby, A. Ginter, W. H. H. Grier, J. H. Gerard, T. Hankins, J. C. Hitchens, C. Hall, L. D. Hall, H. Hussey, W. G. Harner, R. Harner, J. Hesser, B. Harner, M. Harner, J. Hager, W. Harris, J. E. Keller, J. B. Lehman, P. D. F. Layland, D. A. Murlin, J. T. McDermit, H. P. Miller, G. C. Moore, S. D. Murlin, A. Mussulman, J. McDonald, William Nottingham, J. B. Northrop, G. G. Parrott, B. H. Parrott, J. Palmer, H. L. Patterson, G. F. Hicketts, M. B. Rhodes, G. Roebuck, William A. Rider, John Sayers (discharged at Cumberland, September 25, 1864), J. Shanklin, B. F. Stevens, J. Siler, A. J. Springer, William H. Springer, A. G. Shellabarger, G. M. Sinift, A. J. Thompson, W. Van Gundy, E. Willets, C. Wilson, A. W. Way, J. Wicks, J. E. Williams, N. Werts, G. W. Wagner, Eli Yost, J. B. Younger and B. L. Younger.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Ohio Volunteer Infantry.—J. W. Cavender, Co. K, 1st Reg.; John Blatten, Co. M, 1st Reg.; George Uhlman, Co. M, 1st Reg.; A. V. Bark, Co. E, 2nd Reg.; Joseph Kindle, Co. G, 2nd. Reg.; James M. Archer, Co. M, 2nd Reg.; Jacob Bowers, Co. F, 3rd Reg.; Robert Adams, Co. B, 4th Reg.; A. C. Andrews, Co. F, 4th Reg.; John Charter, Co. F, 4th Reg.; Israel Cook, Co. F, 4th Reg.; Jordan Cummins, Quartermaster, 5th Reg.; F. S. Banks, Co. M, 5th Reg.; Jay Hackenberry, Co. A, 6th Reg.; S. Bowers, Co. E, 7th Reg.; F. Kuhn, Co. I, 8th Reg.; G. C. Roach, Co. C, 9th Reg.; W. Adelsperger, Co. G, 9th Reg.; James P. Barrington, Co. G, 9th Reg.; Jacob Hight, Co. G, 9th Reg.; D. J. Beardslee, Co. K, 10th Reg.; J. C. Dickson, Co. B, 12th Reg.; James Guy, Co. E, 12th Reg.; W. M. Graham, Co. A, 13th Reg.; G. W. Evans, Co. H, 15th Reg.; G. Barrington, Co. H, 16th Reg.; Peter Aller, Co. A, 18th Reg.; John H. Bush, Co. H, 23rd Reg.; Alois Bailey, Co. A, 25th Reg.; Robert Cannon, Co. B, 27th Reg.; A. B. Craig, Co. B, 27th Reg.; James Churchman, Co. B, 27th Reg.; Lewis Haywood, Co. B, 27th

Reg.; Thomas Haywood, Co. B, 27th Reg.; E. A. Jackson, Co. B, 27th Reg.; Thomas Moland, Co. B, 27th Reg.; Thomas DeLaney, Co. C, 27th Reg.; Ira North, Co. I, 27th Reg.; Christian North, Co. I, 27th Reg.; Jonas S. Stukey, Co. I, 27th Reg.; Michael Weyne, Co. I, 27th Reg.; Eberhard Zimmerman, Co. I, 27th Reg.; Philip Augustin, Co. C, 32nd Reg.; C. F. Harzog, Co. A, 33rd Reg.; Solomon King, Co. A, 34th Reg.; Joseph Hughes, Co. E, 34th Reg.; John Sutton, Co. I, 34th Reg.; M. Kelley, Co. I, 34th Reg.; Joseph Goder, Co. I, 34th Reg.; Frederick Stedcke, Co. I, 34th Reg.; John H. Seibert, Co. I, 34th Reg.; Noble R. Borders, Co. I, 36th Reg.; G. W. Dysert, Co. I, 36th Reg.; W. Groves, Co. I, 36th Reg.; W. B. Ralston, Co. I, 36th Reg.; Charles Behm, Co. I, 37th Reg. (killed at Flat Top Mountain in 1863); James R. Hedges, Co. I, 38th Reg.; J. S. Hoyt, Co. K, 40th Reg.; Joseph Keller, Co. K, 40th Reg.; A. D. Sawyer, Co. K, 40th Reg.; William Sutherland, Co. K, 40th Reg.; J. C. Cannon, Co. K, 42nd Reg.; William Cannon, Co. K, 42nd Reg.; W. C. Davis, Co. A, 46th Reg.; Eli C. Heath, Co. A, 46th Reg.; A. Kuehl, Co. A, 46th Reg.; L. Raudabaugh, Co. A, 46th Reg.; John W. Ash, Co. B, 47th Reg.; Philip Gardner, Co. I, 47th Reg.; U. LaRue, Co. E, 48th Reg.; Joseph Carr, Co. C, 50th Reg.; Jesse Croghan, Co. C, 50th Reg.; Jacob Davis, Co. C, 50th Reg.; Walker Dean, Co. C, 50th Reg.; W. Dellinger, Co. C, 50th Reg.; Thomas Dull, Co. C, 50th Reg.; B. N. Piper, Co. C, 50th Reg.; Jacob Roberts, Co. C, 50th Reg.; J. S. Rue, Co. C, 50th Reg.; Joel Bevington, Co. F, 50th Reg.; J. T. Koots, Co. I, 50th Reg.; William M. Harper, Co. D, 51st Reg.; W. Edmundson, Co. K, 51st Reg.; Cyrus Haas, Co. K, 51st Reg.; G. W. Akers, Co. B, 55th Reg.; Thomas Brown, Co. B, 55th Reg.; Eli Hull, Co. B, 55th Reg.; J. H. Shipman, Co. H, 56th Reg.; Joseph F. A. Freiburger, Co. A, 57th Reg.; Gideon Crabtree, Co. D, 57th Reg.; George Flagler, Co. G, 57th Reg.; Peter Portz, Co. G, 57th Reg.; Theodore Scheid, 58th Reg.; Curtis Cummins, 58th Reg.; F. Vagedes, 58th Reg.; David Ayers, Co. I, 60th Reg.; J. W. Barber, Co. D, 62nd Reg.; Fred Fleis, Co. D, 62nd Reg.; George Carr, Co. K, 62nd Reg.; C. Black, 63rd Reg.; J. F. Covault, Co. G, 66th Reg.; Philip Bush, Co. D, 69th Reg.; H. H. Rittenhouse, Co. H, 69th Reg.; Fred Clatery, 70th Reg.; James F. Timmonds, Co. D, 71st Reg.; S. R. Beam, Co. A, 75th Reg.; Ephraim Miller, Co. B, 78th Reg.; James Cochran, 79th Reg. (shot by accident at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania); Girard Bailey, Co. B, 86th Reg.; Oswald Scranton, Co. K, 87th Reg. (captured at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, in 1862; re-enlisted in Company D, 57th Ind. Vol. Inf.; died at Port Lavaca, Texas, November 12, 1865); Charles Landon, Co. C, 88th Reg.; C. W. McKee, Co. C, 88th Reg.; John Loree, Co. D, 88th Reg.; Warren Barber, Co. K, 88th Reg.; James Fefe, Co. K, 88th Reg.; Reuben T. Griffin, Co. K, 88th Reg.; James Hattery, Co. K, 88th Reg.; P. B. Hawkins, Co. K, 88th Reg.; Samuel Hawkins, Co.

K, 88th Reg.; T. Hawkins, Co. K, 88th Reg.; H. Hamilton, Co. K, 88th Reg.; J. J. Parrott, Co. K, 88th Reg.; W. W. Parrott, Co. K, 88th Reg.; J. P. Patterson, Co. K, 88th Reg.; E. H. Patterson, Co. K, 88th Reg.; C. Snavely, Co. K, 88th Reg.; Job Snavely, Co. K, 88th Reg.; Josiah Waltz, Co. K, 88th Reg.; Jacob Wyandt, Co. K, 88th Reg.; Jacob Wertz, Co. K, 88th Reg.; Franklin Yant, Co. K, 88th Reg.; John Yoh, Co. K, 88th Reg.; D. A. James, Co. C, 90th Reg.; James H. Day, major 99th Reg.; Adam Kuhn, Co. F, 99th Reg.; W. B. Rother, Co. F, 99th Reg.; B. F. Roebuck, Co. F, 99th Reg.; Adam Shultz, Co. H, 100th Reg.; Julius Brown, Co. I, 100th Reg.; David Small, Co. D, 102nd Reg.; Wilson Ruff, Co. H, 110th Reg.; E. H. Kelley, Co. H, 120th Reg.; J. W. Grey, Co. G, 126th Reg.; Abraham Mott, Co. D, 134th Reg.; Michael Ayers, Co. G, 152nd Reg.; Eli T. Hastings, 156th Reg.; H. Dixon, Co. A, 181st Reg.; J. C. Edwards, Co. F, 183rd Reg.; H. Bartlett, Co. D, 193rd Reg.; A. D. Coats, Co. D, 193rd Reg.; Charles Collins, Co. D. 193rd Reg.; R. B. Miller, Co. D, 193rd Reg.; David Snyder, Co. D, 193rd Reg.; W. Frysinger, Co. E, 197th Reg.

Ohio National Guard.—Amos Tong, Co. A, 151st Reg.; Peter Mell, Co. C, 151st Reg.; Samuel A. Shockey, Co. D, 151st Reg.; John M. McClure, Co. D, 151st Reg.

Ohio Volunteer Cavalry.—E. Kempler, Co. M, 1st Reg.; Robert J. Kittle, 5th Reg.; Samuel B. Shipley, 5th Reg.

Ohio Independent Battery.—William Adams, 2nd Reg.; John Coon, 5th Reg.; Isaac W. Preston, 5th Reg.; George Colton, 5th Reg.; J. Preston, 5th Reg.; Abner Bone, 5th Reg.; John A. Stevens, 5th Reg.; B. Fisher, 5th Reg.; James Williams, 6th Reg.

Ohio Volunteer Light Artillery.—John Buehler, Battery M, 1st Reg.; Albert Birkmeyer, Battery M, 1st Reg.; John Slife, 1st Bat. Vet.; Elias Bone, O. C. Leymond, John A. Hunter, Robert S. Dye, William Lundy, Edward Davison, Martin Bobenmeyer, John Bollenbacher.

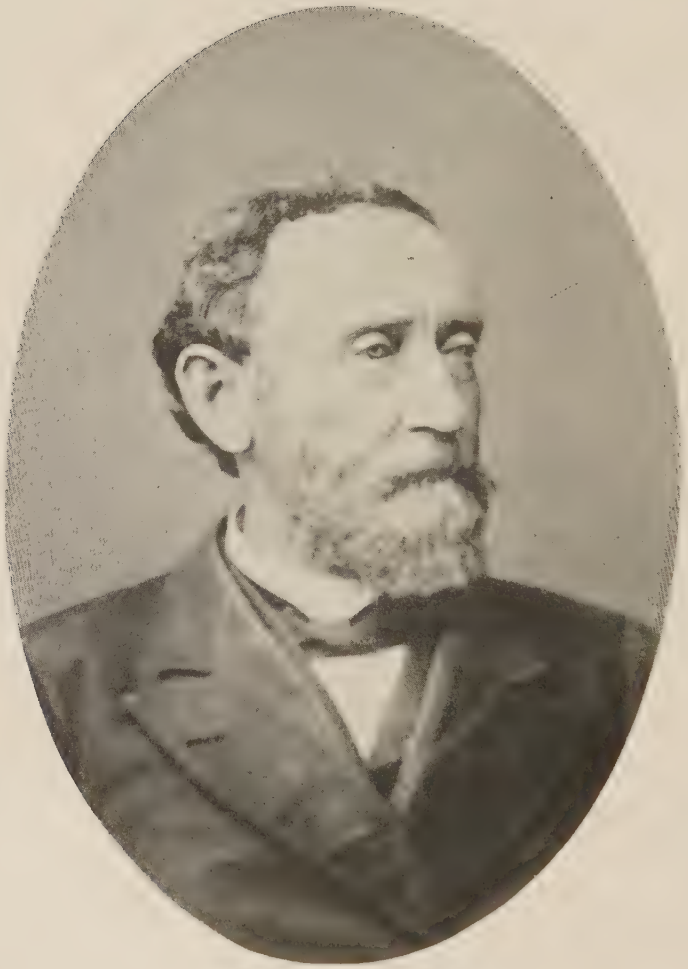
Indiana Volunteer Infantry.—C. Byer, Co. H, 23rd Reg.; John King, 34th Regiment.

Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.—W. H. Moon, Co. B, 55th Reg.

Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.—G. M. Johnston, 44th Regiment.

United States Artillery.—G. B. Keith, Co. G, 3rd Regiment.

United States Colored Troops.—Thomas S. Evans, Co. D, 27th Reg.; Walter Lewis, Co. D, 27th Reg.; George H. Young, Co. D, 27th Reg.; John W. Johnston, Co. K, 5th Virginia Reg. (ran away and came North); John T. A. Bostwick, Co. K, Johnston Grays, Georgia.



HON. THOMAS J. GODFREY

Representative Citizens

HON. THOMAS J. GODFREY

Among the mass of good citizens, who have made Mercer County a leading county of the Buckeye State, there have arisen individuals, who, through their superior ability, their greater enterprise and their more pronounced public spirit, have added luster in their fields of work and have distinguished themselves for posterity. Such a one was the late Hon. Thomas J. Godfrey, who for more than 30 years served faithfully in public life and for 50 years was prominently identified with the business, educational and social affairs of the village of Celina.

Thomas J. Godfrey, whose portrait accompanies this sketch, was born June 6, 1831, in Darke County, Ohio, and died at Celina, November 30, 1906. He was a son of Elias B. and Sarah (Elliott) Godfrey, the former of whom was born in Ohio and the latter in North Carolina. Mr. Godfrey's parents reared a family of seven children, two of whom now survive. The father died in 1888, and the mother in 1891, at Dowagiac, Michigan, to which place they had removed in 1859.

Mr. Godfrey enjoyed more extended educational opportunities than were afforded many youths of his time and after he had completed his academic and university training, receiving the latter in Asbury University, at Greencastle, Indiana, he began to teach school and met with such success that the two succeeding years were passed as an educator, both in Ohio and Indiana. His ambition, however, was to attain eminence as a lawyer and he began reading law in the office of Allen & Meeker, at Greenville, Ohio. In 1857 he was graduated at the Cincinnati Law School. Shortly after being admitted to practice by the Supreme Court of Ohio at Columbus, he located at Celina, which village continued his home the remainder of his life.

Mr. Godfrey's active entrance into politics may be dated from 1863, when he was elected prosecuting attorney of Mercer County. By the close

of his first term, his public efficiency had been so acknowledged that he was enthusiastically and unanimously renominated, but pending the election he was nominated to the State Senate by the convention representing the district then composed of the counties of Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Mercer, Van Wert, Paulding and Williams. From the first his election was an assured fact and his administration of the office was so satisfactory that in 1867 he was returned to the Senate.

Upon the organization of the General Assembly in January, 1868, Mr. Godfrey was honored by election as president *pro tem.*, and this office, like every other, he administered with fidelity and efficiency. In 1869, when the Democratic party selected the late Hon. George H. Pendleton as its candidate for Governor of Ohio, Mr. Godfrey was equally honored by being selected for the office of Lieutenant-Governor. In that year the party met universal defeat in the State. In 1873 Mr. Godfrey was chosen a member of the constitutional convention, that notable body of distinguished men, and he served with characteristic capacity on its judiciary committee during its sessions in 1873 and 1874. In spite of the legal learning and careful weighing of important issues which characterized this eminent body, the constitution submitted by it to the popular vote was rejected in the fall of 1874.

When the campaign of 1880 opened, Mr. Godfrey was advanced by his party as a presidential elector for the Fifth Congressional District, but was defeated with his party. In October, 1881, Mr. Godfrey was again returned to the State Senate, the senatorial district comprising the counties of Mercer, Van Wert, Auglaize, Allen, Paulding, Defiance and Williams. In 1883 he was re-elected.

With his retirement from the political field, Mr. Godfrey took, if possible, a still greater interest in matters more closely pertaining to his own community as well as to the educational affairs of the county and State. He had more time to devote to them.

For seven years he served as president of the board of trustees of the Ohio State University, and was a member of this body from May, 1878, to May, 1903, a period of just 25 years. On June 2, 1903, the board of trustees of the Ohio State University adopted a set of resolutions, expressing the sentiment of the board relative to Mr. Godfrey's retirement, from which we quote, in substance, a part:—"On May 12, 1903, since our last meeting, the term of the Hon. Thomas J. Godfrey, as member of the board of trustees, expired. He did not seek reappointment, preferring to retire after having rounded out 25 years of continuous service. Mr. Godfrey was first appointed a member of the board of trustees of the Ohio State University, under the act of May 1, 1878, for the term of four years, his appointment dating from May 13, 1878; he was reappointed for seven years in 1882, 1889 and 1896.

On May 16, 1878, at the first meeting of the board under the act above mentioned, he was elected its president, and was re-elected November 5, 1878. He was again elected president of the board November 14, 1883, and re-elected November 14, 1884. In November, 1889, he was again elected to this position and re-elected in 1890 and 1891. He served on several committees; was chairman of finance at different periods; was chairman of the committee on faculty and courses of study for several years; and was chairman of the special committee that reported the plan of organization of the College of Law. He took an active part in the establishment of this college and was one of its most active supporters. He seldom missed a meeting of the board. His loyalty and devotion to the interest of the University during his long period of service never abated. His service began when the University was small in numbers, weak in influence, meager in income and a supplicant for needed support. He saw it grow in numbers, power and influence until it assumed its present proud position, and had the satisfaction of knowing that he had contributed to such growth. In his intercourse with his fellow members of the board, with members of the faculty and with the student body, he was always courteous and kindly, and took a friendly interest in all that was going on. The trust that was confided in him a quarter of a century ago has been faithfully discharged, and he retires with the good wishes of his associates, the faculty, students, alumni and all friends of the University." The members of the general faculty of the University expressed themselves as follows, relative to Mr. Godfrey's retirement: "The Hon. T. J. Godfrey having retired from the board of trustees of Ohio State University after a continuous membership of 25 years, we as members of the General Faculty hereby express our sincere appreciation of his long and eminently faithful service and our regret that the affairs of the University are no longer to receive the benefit of his careful oversight and judicious counsel. We follow him into his retirement with our kindly wishes and the hope that the future may bring him none but peaceful and happy years."

Coming closer home, Mr. Godfrey found time to serve as county school examiner at various times and was a regular and welcome visitor at all the Teachers' Institutes held in Mercer County, of which there have been 48 annual sessions since the movement was inaugurated in 1859.

In business life Mr. Godfrey was also a leading factor for years, both in city and village. With R. G. Blake, G. W. Raudabaugh, E. M. Piper, A. P. J. Snyder, T. G. TouVelle, William Dickman, Christopher Schunck and S. S. Snyder, he became one of the stockholders of the first building and loan association organized at Celina. This company was chartered as the Celina Building and Loan Association, on February 2, 1870, and when the stockholders held their first meeting for the election of officers, Mr. Godfrey was

chosen president. Two years later, Mr. Godfrey, with Dr. D. Milligan and his son, bought the entire stock of the association, surrendered its charter and proceeded to organize a banking house, which came into being in February, 1874, at Milligan, Godfrey & Company. The subsequent death of Dr. Milligan caused a reorganization and business was resumed under the firm style of Godfrey & Milligan, which continued without change until 1888. It was then succeeded by the Commercial Bank Company, the board of directors of this concern being: Thomas J. Godfrey, Calvin E. Riley, John Milligan, J. B. Pulskamp, and Ashley M. Riley. On January 1, 1896, Mr. Godfrey retired from the Commercial Bank Company, after a long period of honorable connection.

All public men require relaxation and Mr. Godfrey, like many others, gave a great deal of attention to agricultural interests. He owned a valuable farm and when the perplexities of business, professional and political life bore heavily upon him, he took refuge in his country home and found both pleasure and profit in the developing of what was one of the finest herds of Jersey cattle to be found in the country.

Thomas J. Godfrey was united in marriage on September 29, 1859, to Lorinda Milligan, daughter of the late Dr. D. Milligan, for years a leading capitalist and prominent citizen of Fort Recovery, Ohio. The one daughter born to this marriage, Luella, was carefully reared and liberally educated, being a graduate of the class of 1881 at Glendale Female College, near Cincinnati. In 1883 she was married to Rev. J. M. Anderson, who was the valued pastor of Olivet Presbyterian Church, at Columbus, Ohio. Rev. and Mrs. Anderson have two sons; Carl Godfrey and Robert Bruce. Mrs. Godfrey died September 8, 1898.

Fraternally, Mr. Godfrey was well known all over the State. He was prominent in Masonry; he was a member of Shawnee Commandery, K. T., at Lima, Ohio, and had received the 32d degree. He belonged also to the Uniform Rank, Knights of Pythias.

JAMES ROSS

James Ross, superintendent of the Fort Recovery schools, and an educator who is known very favorably over the whole State of Ohio, was born at Moore's Hill, Dearborn County, Indiana, April 15, 1867, and is a son of David and Louisa (Jaques) Ross.

The father of Mr. Ross was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and was there reared and educated. He learned the tailoring trade and in young manhood removed to West Chester, Ohio, where he subse-

quently was married to Louisa Jaques. They became the parents of five sons and five daughters, whom they reared to maturity, all of whom, with one exception, became teachers. It was a remarkably intelligent family. David Ross later removed to Moore's Hill, Indiana, where he spent the last 40 years of his life, his death occurring in 1901. His widow who still survives resides at that place.

James Ross was reared and primarily educated in the town where he was born. After completing the common school course, he entered Moore's Hill College where he completed first the classical course and later a post-graduate course in literature, receiving the degree of A. B., from this well-known institution, in 1894. In 1897 the degree of A. M. was conferred upon him by the same college.

In 1894 Mr. Ross became principal of the schools of West Chester, Ohio, where he remained for three years, returning to his home at Moore's Hill to spend every vacation and utilizing these occasions for further collegiate study. In 1897 he was called to Adams township, Champaign County, Ohio, to become superintendent of the Township High School, where he remained until he accepted the superintendency of the Fort Recovery Schools in 1898. The changes made by Mr. Ross, in the management and conduct of the schools under his charge, are very evident and the improvement on old methods is marked. The High School has been raised, through his management, to first grade, with a four-years course. Attendance has more than doubled since the people have become convinced that a man of culture and education is devoting the best energies of his life to this work and the progress made must be very gratifying to both teacher and students. Mr. Ross is not only a superintendent of marked executive ability and good judgment, but a teacher of force and power. He makes no radical change but lays a firm foundation and then progresses. Unassuming in his ways he has the ability, by his devoted, unselfish interest in his pupils, to inspire them with noble ideals and to keep them firmly as friends of the school, and through the pupils he seldom fails to reach the parent. He is an *educator* in the highest sense of the word. In 1897 Mr. Ross secured a State common school life certificate, and in 1898 the coveted State high school life certificate, a document representing a high grade of scholarship. He is a member of the Mercer County Board of School Examiners and is president of the Western Ohio Superintendents' Round Table.

Mr. Ross was married at West Chester, Ohio, on August 19, 1897, to Winnie E. Sortor, who is a daughter of Jacob Sortor, of that village and they have had three children, namely: Hazel Eva, who died aged 14 months, James Glen and Harold Raymond.

The parents of Mr. Ross were Baptists and he was reared in that faith, but since coming to Fort Recovery he has been identified with the Methodist

Episcopal Church, as a teacher in the Sunday-school and leader of the church choir. Since 1904 he has been secretary of the Board of Public Affairs of Fort Recovery. He has been identified with the Masonic fraternity for some years, and is junior warden of Fort Recovery Lodge, No. 539, F. &. A. M.

SYLVESTER WILKIN

Sylvester Wilkin, who fills the important position of superintendent of the public schools of Celina, is one of the best-known educators of the State and is popular as teacher and lecturer in various educational organizations. Mr. Wilkin was born in Licking County, Ohio, December 17, 1857, and is a son of William O. and Angeline (Fry) Wilkin, being one of a family of six children. The parents were farming people of Licking County, where the family was one of substance and respectability. The father died in 1894.

Sylvester Wilkin was reared in his native county and was mainly educated in Van Wert and Mercer counties until he entered the National Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio, where he was graduated in 1878. His first location as a teacher was in Shelby County, Ohio, and from there he went to Miami County for a season, removing then to Union City, Indiana, where he remained until he was called to Celina on January 11, 1905, entering upon the duties of his present position as superintendent of the Celina schools. In J. W. Pogue, principal of the High School, Mr. Wilkin has a very able assistant. The pupils number about 600 and the corps of instructors is made up of 16 teachers.

Mr. Wilkin was united in marriage with Elizabeth Gray, a daughter of Daniel Gray. Mrs. Wilkin died in 1903, leaving five daughters. Mr. Wilkin and family belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church. They have a pleasant home on East Fulton street, Celina. In political sentiment, Mr. Wilkin is a Democrat.

LOUIS FELTZ

Louis Feltz, whose valuable farm of 97 acres is situated in section 20, Marion township, was born in Seneca County, Ohio, August 24, 1841, and is a son of Florenz and Margaret (Loeffler) Feltz.

The father of Mr. Feltz was born in that part of France that is now included in Germany in 1803, and served in the French Army for a period of eight years. He was twice married, first to a French lady, who accompanied him to America, with their two children, Florenz and Joseph. The

former married Lena Rable, served as a soldier in the United States Army, and now resides at Wapakoneta. The latter who is deceased, was also a soldier in the United States Army, and lived at Baraboo, Wisconsin. The mother of these sons died in Seneca County. After some time, Mr. Feltz married Margaret Loeffler, and two children were born to this union, namely: Louis, of this sketch, and George, a prominent citizen of Lima, who married Elizabeth Holdgraven. George Feltz is auditor of Allen County, and for years has been a man of consequence there. While editing one of the Lima journals, he spent some time abroad and during this period wrote very entertaining letters to his subscribers. Upon his return he had much to say in praise of foreign countries, but always concluded with the statement "America is home."

When our subject was about nine years of age, his father sold the Seneca County farm and removed to Mercer County, buying a farm in Marion township, upon which the family moved in 1851, as pioneers in their section. A log cabin in the woods was their home, and deer and other wild creatures roamed at will through the thick forest which stood where now are thriving villages and cultivated fields.

On the above farm Louis Feltz grew to man's estate. On May 18, 1865, he was married to Rosalia Schuler, who was born in France and accompanied her parents to America. The children born to this union were: Rosa, who married Joseph Fecher and lives at Wendelin; Adolph, an electrician, who is foreman of the Westinghouse branch at Hamilton, Ontario, Canada; Frank, a blacksmith, who married Philomena Cron; Mary, who married Cornelius McGreevy, of Greenville, Ohio; William, now a mail carrier at Cincinnati, who served in the United States regular army and was wounded in the Spanish-American War—married Carrie Diehl; Elizabeth, who is the wife of Bernard Seitz and lives at Chickasaw; and Emil, who married Mallie Hierholzer, daughter of A. J. Hierholzer, and lives at Massillon, Ohio.

The second marriage of Mr. Feltz was to Josephine Sonderman, who was born at Fort Recovery, Ohio, December 10, 1869, and is a daughter of Frank Sonderman, who came to America from Germany and was married at Dayton, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Sonderman live on their home place at Victoria, near Fort Recovery. They had eight children. Mr. and Mrs. Feltz have had eight children, as follows: Elenora, who married John Vandrell and lives at Cassella; Henry, who is engaged in a blacksmithing business; and Florentina, Albert, Charles, Frances, Otto and Leona. The family belong to St. Mary's Catholic Church at Cassella.

Mr. Feltz was one of the founders of the Marion Mutual Fire Insurance Association and is a member of its board of directors. He has served as township assessor, as land appraiser, and as a member of the School Board. His

farm—the old home farm on which his parents settled in 1851—he purchased from his father, who died in 1889. The surroundings are very attractive, the house being almost concealed from the road by evergreen and well-kept orchards. Almost all of Mr. Feltz's children are gifted with a talent for music and he is giving them every advantage in his power. This is one of the representative families of Marion township.

GEORGE GREEN

GEORGE GREEN, deceased, who in life was one of the prominent farmers of Butler township, was born November 29, 1851, on the farm in section 24, Butler township, which is now occupied by his widow. The remains of his father and grandfather, both of whom were named John Green, rest in the cemetery at Montezuma. His father died on the homestead in Butler township.

The Green family, which originated in England, was established in Ohio in the days of the great-grandfather of our subject. John Green, the grandfather, came from Hamilton, Ohio, to Mercer County at a very early day and first entered land in Franklin township, and later the family home in Butler township, the date of this transaction being September 4, 1838. The original deed, bearing the signature of Martin Van Buren, President of the United States, is still in the possession of the family; the land has always been kept intact, and is now occupied by the fourth generation.

The parents of the late George Green died when he was eight years old and his home was with Stephen Frank, at Coldwater, from that age until he was 17 years old, when he went to Illinois and later to Missouri, subsequently returning to his home in Butler township, when he was 23 years old. He had two brothers, William and Hiram, the former of whom died aged 22 years, of consumption. Hiram still survives.

On July 2, 1876, George Green was married to Catherine Smith, a daughter of Joseph and Caroline (Frick) Smith, the former of whom was born in New Jersey and the latter in Pennsylvania. Joseph Smith came to Ohio at an early day and was married in the vicinity of Dayton. Later he came to Mercer County and settled on a farm in Butler township, west of Coldwater, and there Mrs. Green was reared.

Mr. and Mrs. Green had nine children born to them, as follows: Ira, who married Salome Cable (first) and Emma Hitchens (second) and has one daughter—Doris Ollene; Harley George, who married Maud Wade, resides in Butler township and has one daughter—Thelma Opal; Ibbie Catherine, who married James Mowery and has two children—Benjamin Frank-

lin and Vera Pauline; Blanche Belle; Bessie Hazel; Cassius Ford; Lily Opal, who died aged five years; Grace Glenna; and Chester Arthur, who died aged nine months.

Harley George Green enlisted at Toledo, Ohio, August 7, 1900, in the United States Army, and was sent to Fort Leavenworth, where he was enrolled as a member of Company G, First Regiment, U. S. Infantry. On the 25th of August the regiment left Fort Leavenworth for the Presidio Barracks, San Francisco, California. On September 1, 1900, the First Regiment sailed under sealed orders on the U. S. transport "Logan," arriving at Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, on the 8th of September, where the members of the regiment learned that their destination was the Philippine Islands, where they arrived on the 28th of September. They were then orderd to the island of Marinduque to force the release of Company F, 29th Regiment, U. S. Volunteers, which had been captured by the enemy. On December 1st the First Regiment sailed to the Island of Samar to relieve the 29th Regiment, U. S. Volunteers, stationed there and went through the entire campaign of Samar, from May 22, 1901, to December 25, 1902. The regiment was relieved by the 14th Regiment, U. S. Infantry, on the 17th of March, 1903, and sailed for Manila from which port it sailed to Nagasaki, Japan, and thence to San Francisco, where the regiment landed April 28, 1903. Mr. Green was stationed at Fort Wayne, Michigan, until August 6, 1903, being then discharged on account of the expiration of his term of service. In the service in the Philippines he took part in all battles and skirmishes of the regiment and sustained a most excellent character for honest and faithful discharge of duty. He was never wounded. Col. D. W. Dugan was in command of the First Regiment.

The death of George Green, the subject of this sketch, occurred on October 20, 1893, thereby removing from Butler township a very highly esteemed citizen. He was a kind husband and affectionate father, and possessed many estimable traits, which made him popular with his acquaintances. The Green home has always been a hospitable one.

ABRAHAM W. LARUE

Abraham W. Larue, a well-known and prominent farmer of Washington township, residing on the homestead in section 5, who with his brother, Isaac Martin Larue, owns 400 acres of land in one body, was born in Butler County, Ohio, July 5, 1849, and is a son of Uriah and Lydia (Neff) Larue.

Uriah Larue and his wife were both born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where they were reared. They were married in Philadelphia and

moved to Butler County, Ohio, where they resided for about five years, in 1854 moving to Mercer County, where Mr. Larue bought a 320-acre timber tract. They first moved into a log house. This primitive log structure was destroyed by fire after but a few weeks of occupancy. It was then in the dead of winter. They then erected and moved into another log house about one mile east, in the midst of the forest, first having to cut a road to the clearing where the house was built. Their present fine large home stands near where their first cabin, which was of round logs, was built by them and their neighbors after the fire and before their new hewn-log house was completed. Mr. and Mrs. Larue were the parents of eight children, namely: Abraham W., the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth E., deceased at the age of 18 years; Leah Ann, deceased at the age of 19 years; Uriah B., who died after reaching manhood; Isaac Martin, who is part owner of the home farm; John B., who died in young manhood, while attending school at Valparaiso, Indiana; David F., living half a mile south of the homestead, who has two children living—Nellie and Leslie—and one deceased in infancy—Orville; and Lydia A., who died aged 10 years. Mr. Larue was a soldier in the Civil War, enlisting in 1862 and served three years. He died in 1884. His widow is still residing on the home place.

Abraham W. Larue was reared on his father's farm and spent the most of his boyhood days in assisting his father clear the land. In young manhood he taught school in the winter seasons for a number of years. He has never married but has lived all his life on the home farm. Both he and his brother Isaac are members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Patrons of Husbandry.

Isaac Martin Larue took for his wife Mary Weaver, who was born in Darke County, Ohio, and is a daughter of George and Joan (Slack) Weaver. They have two children: Kathleen and Mildred.

CHARLES A. BROWN, D. D. S.

Charles A. Brown, D. D. S., who is practicing dentistry at Fort Recovery, was born December 21, 1878, in Dayton, Ohio, and is a son of Col. D. G. and Sarah A. (Mills) Brown.

Col. D. G. Brown was born March 27, 1827, in York County, Pennsylvania. In 1850 he located in Camden, Indiana, where he remained for 14 years, removing in 1864 to Dayton, Ohio, where he engaged in the wholesale grocery business, under the firm name of Comer & Brown. He was afterwards interested in the Champion Iron Works, of Kenton, Ohio, for 12 years, and in 1886 became general agent for the Rogers Fence Company, of Spring-

HON. JAMES H. DAY

MRS. FRANCES S. DAY

field, Ohio. He remained with this firm until the time of his death, which occurred quite suddenly, January 26, 1887, while writing a letter in the Arlington Hotel, Buffalo, New York. Colonel Brown was one of the most prominent men of Dayton, Ohio. He served for 10 years as one of the directors of the City Workhouse and a number of years as member of the Board of Education. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge at Camden, Indiana; an Odd Fellow and a Knight of Honor. He was a church member, belonging to the Methodist Episcopal Church. His wife, whose maiden name was Sarah A. Mills, died in August, 1902. They had six children, namely: L. M., born March 5, 1856, and deceased in 1895, who was manager of the Brown Tar Soap Company, of Dayton, Ohio—his father was the first man to manufacture Tar Soap; Joseph, who is cashier of the water-works at Dayton, Ohio; E. J., of Dayton, Ohio, who is principal of the Weaver School and connected with the Y. M. C. A. night school; Minnie E., now deceased; Walter M., advertising manager of the Brown Soap Company; and Charles A.

Charles A. Brown was reared in Dayton, received his education in the public schools and was graduated from the Steele High School in the class of 1898. He afterwards studied dentistry under Dr. Long, of Dayton, working under him for several years. He is a graduate of the Ohio College of Dental Surgery, Cincinnati, class of 1902-03. After practicing a short time in Dayton, he moved to Fort Recovery on July 1, 1904, and bought out Dr. Sickman's practice and establishment.

Dr. Brown was married on Thanksgiving Day, 1903, to Beatrice Patton, a daughter of A. D. Patton. They have one child, Helen. Fraternally, Dr. Brown is a Mason, an Odd Fellow and a member of the Psi Omega dental fraternity.

HON. JAMES H. DAY

Hon. James H. Day, president of the First National Bank of Celina, for 25 consecutive years a judge of the Common Pleas and Circuit courts, in Mercer County, displayed on the bench those qualities that an intelligent, law-abiding community approved and has still other claims to distinction in his native State. A surviving officer of the great Civil War, since his retirement from military life a prominent member of both bench and bar, he has also been a very important factor in business and social life. Judge Day was born February 10, 1840, near Findlay, Ohio, and is a son of Ezekiel P. and Margaret (Barr) Day.

The Day family originated in England and the Barr family was of Scotch-Irish extraction. The Days settled at an early date in New Jersey and the Barrs at an equally early period in Pennsylvania. The father of

Judge Day was born in Morris County, New Jersey, April 10, 1798, and the mother, in Chester County, Pennsylvania, July 24, 1798. Ezekiel P. Day died October 11, 1849. He was survived many years by his widow and by a number of his 10 children.

James H. Day was educated in the public schools of Hancock and Van Wert counties, remaining at his books until 16 years of age, when he went to Van Wert and two years later entered upon the study of the law in the office of Edson & DePuy, a reputable law firm there, where he continued for 21 months. In 1861 he embarked in a mercantile business at Celina, but in July of the following year he gave up his business prospects in order to enter the Union Army in his country's defense. He was commissioned major of the 99th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., and served with efficiency until impaired health made his resignation necessary. After a short time in the business field at Celina, he resumed his law studies and was admitted to the bar on August 20, 1869. His evident ability in the profession was immediately recognized and during the succeeding decade he was more or less prominently identified with the important litigation engaging the attention of the courts of Mercer County.

The qualities displayed by Judge Day in his private practice emphasized his fitness for a position on the bench and in October, 1879, he was elected judge of the Court of Common Pleas in the First Sub-Division of the Third Judicial District. This comprised Allen, Auglaize, Mercer, Shelby and Van Wert counties. Judge Day entered upon the duties of this office on February 9, 1880, and was subsequently re-elected twice, serving 13 consecutive years. He retired from this position only to accept one on the circuit bench, to which he was subsequently re-elected. It did not take long for his fellow-citizens to realize that Judge Day, in an official position, deserved their profound respect. He proved himself impartial, consistent, learned and fearless and retired from judicial life with his robes untarnished.

On June 10, 1863, Judge Day was united in marriage with Frances O. Small, a daughter of Richard W. and Elizabeth Small, of Celina, Ohio. Their four daughters are: Margaret R., who married Andrew G. Briggs, a prominent oil producer, banker and merchant, at Geneva, Indiana; Annie L., who married John W. Loree, a prominent attorney at Celina; Elizabeth S., who married Hon. William E. Tou Velle, one of Celina's prominent lawyers, now representing this district in Congress; and Frances Edna.

Judge Day is a Democrat and has been an active member of his party. He has always advocated an effective public school system and has served as a member of the Celina Board of Education. Fraternally he is a Mason Portraits of Judge and Mrs. Day are shown on nearby pages.

WILLIAM H. BASTIAN

WILLIAM H. BASTIAN, a prominent citizen of Liberty township and a member of the township Board of Education, resides on his well-appointed farm of 80 acres, which is situated in section 34. Mr. Bastian was born February 20, 1862, in Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of old pioneer settlers, George and Mary (Fennig) Bastian.

The Bastian family was established in this county by our subject's grandfather, George Bastian, who emigrated from Germany, with his family, when his son George was six years of age. The rest of his life was spent in Marion township, where he was one of the first settlers. George Bastian, father of our subject, lived for many years in Washington township, where he was well-known and highly esteemed. He served the township as trustee and was ever prominent in the consideration of affairs looking to the welfare of his neighborhood, being a man of most excellent judgment and of the highest integrity. The township lost a valued citizen when he died on December 24, 1903, when over 80 years of age. Of his children, nine survive, as follows: Elizabeth, wife of Solomon Stilgebouer, of Red Willow County, Nebraska; Levina, wife of James Pearson, of Washington township; Mary, widow of James Davis, residing in Nebraska; Caroline, wife of Oscar Dumbauld, of Washington township; Catherine, widow of Paul Egger, residing in Wilsonville, Nebraska; Hannah, wife of A. M. Shorey, of Wilsonville, Nebraska; Samuel, of Red Willow County, Nebraska; Philip, of Rockford, Ohio; and William H., of this sketch.

William H. Bastian obtained his education in the schools of Washington township. He was reared on his father's farm and practically trained in agricultural pursuits. On December 24, 1885, he was married to Minnie M. Mercer, who was born in Liberty township, Mercer County, Ohio, July 28, 1867, and is a daughter of Robert Mercer and his wife, Louisa (Sheward) Mercer, nee Kritzwiser. Robert Mercer, was born in Ohio and was a direct descendant of the distinguished British officer, Gen. John Mercer.

Gen. John Mercer and his wife, Elizabeth (Bentley) Mercer, who was a niece of Henry VIII, King of England, had one son, Gideon, who married a Miss Harper and had 16 children. Robert Mercer, son of Gideon, married Elizabeth Brown and had 12 children. Joseph Mercer, son of Robert, married Comfort Nottingham and had seven children. Joseph Mercer, son of Joseph, married Ann Day and had 11 children—seven sons and four daughters—as follows: Louisa (Trexler), deceased; J. N., Mary Jane (Farrar), and Comfort (Burnside), residents of Indiana; Rebecca (Poor), of California; Robert, father of Mrs. Bastian; Marion, of Indiana; John, of Wisconsin; Washington, of Missouri; Winfield, of Indiana; and Faulkner, of

Wisconsin. Mrs. Bastian is one of the 800 heirs to the great Mercer estate, valued at $500,000,000, which has been in litigation for many years, and which includes 212 acres of land in New York City, 28,000 acres in the State of New Jersey, 300 acres in Ireland and some in Scotland. James V. Snyder, of Harvey, Illinois, is secretary of the Mercer heirs' association.

Robert Mercer, father of Mrs. Bastian, faithfully served his country through three years of the Civil War and received an honorable discharge. He died June 18, 1894. He was a valued member of the Christian Church and was much esteemed throughout Liberty township. Mrs. Mercer also belonged to an old family that settled here in pioneer days. The two survivors of the family of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mercer are: Minnie M., wife of Mr. Bastian; and Edith L., wife of Edward Terry, of Van Wert County, Ohio. Mrs. Mercer by her marriage to James Sheward had three children: Jennie, deceased; James W. and Nancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Bastian have three children, namely: Fern L., who was married to William A. Hoover on October 3, 1906, and now resides in Montpelier, Indiana; May M. and Jay W. The family belongs to the Church of God, in which Mr. Bastian is serving as an elder. Politically, Mr. Bastian is a Democrat. He is one of the representative men of the township and for some time past has served on the township Board of Education.

JOHN IMWALLE

John Imwalle, who resides on his valuable farm of 140 acres situated in section 25, Marion township, was born August 7, 1860, and is a son of Herman and Elizabeth (Heckman) Imwalle.

Herman Imwalle was born in Germany. Upon reaching manhood, he came to America and settled in Marion township, Mercer County. He married Elizabeth Heckman, a daughter of Henry Deitrich Heckman. They had two children: Frederick, who died aged five years; and John, the subject of this sketch. Herman Imwalle died May 19, 1872; his wife survived him 29 years, dying June 29, 1901.

Henry Deitrich Heckman, the maternal grandfather of our subject, was of German nativity. When he settled in this country, he entered land in the State of Ohio. During the first summer he worked on the canal which was then being built, and in the following winter devoted his time to clearing his land, thus making it possible to cultivate the land the next summer. He was later able to ship what farm produce he could spare to other points on the canal. This land was purchased by the father of our subject and later inherited by John Imwalle at the death of his mother.

John Imwalle, the subject of this sketch, was reared on his father's farm in Marion township and has always lived on this farm. He received his education in the district schools and, having always lived in this locality, is well known all over the county. Mr. Imwalle was married April 10, 1882, to Catherine Bruggeman, a daughter of Bernard and Elizabeth (Wildenhaus) Bruggeman, natives of Germany. Catherine Bruggeman was the youngest of a family of five children, namely: Elizabeth, Joseph, John, Herman and Catherine. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Imwalle: John, deceased; Frederick, Joseph, Herman, William, Sophia, Rosalia, Matilda, Vincent and George, all living at home. Mr. Imwalle and his family are members of St. John's Catholic Church at Maria Stein. He is also a member of St. Joseph's Society.

WILLIAM M. SHELLEY

William M. Shelley, a leading citizen of Uniton township, who has lived on his 80-acre farm in section 10 for the past 15 years, was born November 26, 1856, in Wayne County, Ohio, and is a son of Daniel and Eliza (Anderson) Shelley.

Joseph Anderson, the maternal grandfather of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania and went to California in the period of the discovery of gold on the Pacific Coast, where he died not long after his arrival. His wife, who has been dead for 30 years, passed away at an advanced age.

Daniel Shelley was born near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in 1825, and died June 3, 1904, at the advanced age of 79 years. When a child he accompanied his parents to Wayne County, Ohio, where he grew to manhood and where he married Eliza Anderson, also a native of Pennsylvania, who when a small child came to Ohio with her parents, who settled in Wayne County. When Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Shelley came to Mercer County in 1860 they located on a farm in Union township near the Anderson Bethel Church, one and a quarter miles west and half a mile south of where our subject now lives. They were the parents of eight children, namely: Elizabeth, a resident of Lima, Ohio; Jacob, George and Margaret, deceased; William M., the subject of this sketch; Sarah, wife of Sylvester McQuoun, of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Lewis, also a resident of Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Joseph, who resides in Lima, Ohio. Mrs. Shelley died in 1884, aged 57 years.

William M. Shelley was reared in Union township and attended school in District No. 6. After leaving school he engaged in farming to which he has ever since devoted his time and energy, He was married January 24, 1880, to Lucinda Archer, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Archer, both of whom are now deceased. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Shelley,

as follows: Lafy, who married Frank Small, lives at Mendon and has two children—Rex and Ruth; Frank, who is unmarried, lives at home and is engaged in operating oil wells; and Abigail and Laura, who live at home.

Mr. Shelley is a Republican and takes an active interest in the politics of the county. He has served as a delegate to county conventions a number of times and has been a township trustee for the past five years. He served as a member of the township Board of Education from 1894 to 1904, and through his efforts a special teacher was employed to give musical instruction in all the schools of the township. It was through the influence of Mr. Shelley and his associates that the Union Township Building was constructed at Mendon in 1904 at a cost of $12,000, being located on the Public Square, which was laid out by Justin Hamilton. Mr. Shelley is a member of Mendon Tent, No. 214, K. O. T. M., and also of Mendon Lodge, No. 416, K. of P. He has been through all the chairs of both lodges and served as a representative to the Grand Lodge, Knights of Pythias, at Toledo, Ohio, June 12-13, 1906.

JOHN B. WILLENBORG, SR.

John B. Willenborg, Sr., one of the representative citizens and substantial farmers of Butler township, whose death occurred October 30, 1906, was born in Oldenberg, Germany, November 13, 1826, and was a son of John Theodore Willenborg, who died when his son John was 14 years old. Our subject's mother lived to the age of 85 years but never came to America.

At the age of 20 years John B. Willenborg started for America and landed at Baltimore in 1848, after a voyage of six weeks. He came on to Cincinnati, Ohio, landing in that city during the epidemic of cholera, after which, in the following year, came the smallpox. The healthy German youth assisted to nurse the sick back to convalescence but never was attacked by either disease himself. Later he learned the stove molding trade at Cincinnati, at which he worked for 12 years, during which he made, on an average, $25 per week, a great part of which he providently saved and put into a grocery business that he conducted for some time. He also worked as a street car conductor. He lived in Cincinnati from 1848 to 1882. In the latter year he bought and settled upon a 40-acre tract in section 34, Butler township, where he made his home until his death. To this original tract he added 33½ acres in section 35 and 100 acres in section 3, which his eldest son has farmed. His success in life was the direct result of his own efforts.

On October 18, 1853, Mr. Willenborg was married to Gertrude Cuper, daughter of Frederick Cuper. She was also born in Germany and came to Amer-

ica with her parents when 10 years of age. They have had 10 children, seven of these reaching maturity as follows: John B., Jr.; Anna, wife of Frank Ukutter; Clement, of Covington, Kentucky; Theodore, the home farmer; Benjamin, also living at home, who taught school for eight years, five of these at Coldwater; George, of Gas City, Indiana; and Joseph J., at home. Three sons are married. Mr. Willenborg had 11 grandchildren. John B. Willenborg, Jr., learned the carriage painting trade and for five years was foreman of a factory at Cincinnati. He married Mary Wessel, of Price Hill, Cincinnati, and they have two children, Mary and Gertrude. Clement is a machinist and holds a position as assistant foreman at the American Tool Works, Cincinnati. He married Lizzie Naderman of that city and has three children—Adele, Archie and Mildred.

Mr. Willenborg belonged to the Catholic Church, as do all the surviving members of the family, and all his sons are members of the Knights of St. John. For six years he served as trustee of Butler township and made an efficient and careful official. On the 50th anniversary of his wedding, Mr. Willenborg's large barn burned, but this disaster he met with the same courage and resolution which, in former years, had carried him through many a crisis. He immediately built the substantial barn now standing. Mr. Willenborg was very highly esteemed throughout Butler township, his many sterling qualities bringing him the confidence and esteem of his fellow-citizens.

ROBERT ELLSWORTH RILEY, M. D.

Robert Ellsworth Riley, M. D., physician and druggist, whose business location is on Main street, Celina, is one of the town's leading citizens. He was born March 12, 1863, four miles east of Celina, and is a son of Calvin E. Riley, president of the Commercial Bank Company, and a pioneer of Mercer County, an extended sketch of whom will be found in another part of this work.

Robert E. Riley was reared in his native locality and received his preliminary education in the country schools. Later he became a student at the Ohio Normal University at Ada, following which he taught school for two winters and then entered the Chicago College of Pharmacy. Subsequently he completed his pharmaceutical course at Ada. He continued his medical studies until he was graduated in medicine at Rush Medical College, Chicago, in 1893. For one year following, he practiced at Chicago and during this time was visiting physician for the Central Free Dispensary, going from there to Pana, Illinois, where he continued to practice for a year and a half. In the fall of 1895 he settled at Celina and engaged in practice, in the meantime be-

coming interested in the drug business and subsequently purchasing a half interest in Charles A. McKim's drug-store. They continued the business under the firm name of McKim & Riley for about five years, when Dr. Riley bought out Mr. McKim and has been sole proprietor ever since. Dr. Riley is also interested in farm lands and oil leases in the county and is half owner of the drug business of B. L. Kindle & Company at Celina.

In 1894 Dr. Riley was united in marriage with Addie Brandon, daughter of the late Joel K. Brandon, an old and respected settler of Celina. Dr. and Mrs. Riley have two sons, Horatio B. and Joel K.

Politically Dr. Riley is identified with the Republican party, but has held no office of a public nature with the exception of that of United States pension examiner, which he has most efficiently filled for the past eight years. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias and is very prominent in Masonry, being a member of the blue lodge and chapter, at Celina, the commandery at Van Wert, and the consistory at Toledo, having received the 32nd degree.

U. GRANT COATS

U. Grant Coats, postmaster at Rockford, was born December 6, 1865, in Van Wert County, Ohio, and is a son of Rev. Thomas and Sarah (Feasel) Coats.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Joseph Coats, came to Fairfield County, Ohio, from Virginia, and died at the age of 83 years at the home of his son, Rev. Thomas Coats, in Black Creek township, about 1875. He was the father of five sons and one daughter, namely: David, Melvin, Redmond and Robert, all residents of Kenton, Ohio; Thomas, of Rockford; and Nancy, who lives at Stella, Nebraska. Jacob Feasel, the maternal grandfather, who was of Pennsylvania German ancestry, came from Pennsylvania and located at an early period of the county's history in Fairfield County, Ohio, where he became a wealthy and influential farmer. He resided there until his death, which was caused by a fall from a load of grain.

Rev. Thomas Coats, the father of our subject, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, June 15, 1833, and was there reared on a farm. About 1860 he moved to Van Wert County, and some years prior to his removal, he was married to Sarah Feasel, who was born in Fairfield County, August 6, 1833. Mr. Coats united with the United Brethren Church soon after reaching manhood and was shortly after ordained for the ministry. He was for 30 years actively engaged in his calling, and, while still active in church work, he has for several years past been on the retired list. He lived for many years on a farm in Mercer County, moving here from Van Wert County in 1867, and

CAPT. JOHN STAFFORD RHODES

residing in Black Creek township until 1891 when he moved to Rockford where he has since resided. He organized the United Brethren class at Rockford. On September 19, 1904, Rev. Thomas Coats and his wife celebrated their golden anniversary. They have been the parents of 10 children, of whom three died in infancy, while two—David and James—died after attaining their majority. Those living are: Mary, wife of T. J. Cully, residing at Willshire, Ohio; Thomas McClellan, a resident of DeGraff, Ohio, where he is engaged in farming; Lillie May, who married J. F. Roy and lives at Devil's Lake, North Dakota; U. Grant, the subject of this sketch; and Oliver J., a resident of Union City, Indiana, and a wheelwright by trade.

U. Grant Coats received his early education in the township schools and in 1887 entered the Ohio Normal University, at Ada, where he remained for a period of four years. After leaving college, Mr. Coats was engaged in teaching for eight years, having in this period three different schools. He gave up teaching in 1897 and was appointed postmaster at Rockford by President McKinley. He assumed the duties of the office August 2, 1897, at which time the office was rated as fourth class. In 1899, during Mr. Coats' incumbency, the office was advanced to third class. On February 24, 1900, he was reappointed by President McKinley for a period of four years. At the expiration of his term, Mr. Coats was reappointed by President Roosevelt, on December 13, 1905, and is the present incumbent, having served as postmaster for the past nine years.

Mr. Coats was married December 20, 1891, to Minnie Work, a daughter of Claybourn and Elizabeth Work, of Rockford. She died July 20, 1893. The second marriage occurred September 18, 1898, when Lillian Hoffman, a daughter of Rev. John A. and Mary Hoffman, of Ossian, Indiana, became his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Coats reside on West Market street, where they are comfortably situated.

Mr. Coats is a Republican in politics and has always been a staunch supporter of the principles of that party. He is a member of the United Brethren Church at Rockford. Fraternally, he is a member of Shane Lodge, No. 293, K. of P., at Rockford and also a member of Rockford Lodge, No. 790, I. O. O. F.

CAPT. JOHN STAFFORD RHODES

Capt. John Stafford Rhodes, a well-known pioneer resident of Fort Recovery, whose portrait is shown on the opposite page, was born October 2, 1826, in Caledonia County, Vermont, and is a son of Josiah K. and Mary (Brown) Rhodes.

Not only has Captain Rhodes won military rank and reputation for him-

self, but he also comes of Revolutionary stock. His father was a son of Oliver and Martha (Pratt) Rhodes, the former of English and the latter of French extraction. Grandfather Oliver Rhodes was a gallant soldier in the Patriot army all through the Revolutionary War, serving for six years under General Washington and winning deserved promotion.

Josiah K. Rhodes was reared and educated in Vermont and in young manhood learned the trade of house-joiner. In 1835 he removed with his family to Cuyahoga County, Ohio, where he remained two years and then moved to Licking County. During his residence in the former county, he completed the erection of the first Presbyterian Church ever built at Strongsville, which is still standing. The family continued to live in Licking County until 1861, when Josiah K. Rhodes and wife and their son, Robert B. Rhodes, removed to Van Wert County and settled at Willshire. There Josiah K. Rhodes died in November, 1892, aged 92 years.

Josiah K. Rhodes was united in marriage with Mary Brown, who was born near Belfast, Ireland, in 1795, and was a daughter of Stafford Brown, who was adjudged an Irish rebel in 1798. The English confiscated his property and he and his family escaped to America and settled in Vermont. Mrs. Rhodes was the eldest of three children. One brother died and was buried at sea. The other brother became a resident of Vermont. Josiah K. Rhodes and wife had two sons and two daughters, namely: John Stafford, of this sketch; Robert B., who died at Willshire, Ohio, August 26, 1901; Mary Ann, who married Paschal Horton and died in Licking County, Ohio; and Martha, who resides in Delaware County, Ohio.

From boyhood the subject of this biography was of a more adventurous spirit than are most youths. Perhaps the blood of his maternal grandfather, the Irish patriot and of his paternal grandfather, the Revolutionary soldier, flowed hotly through his veins. Be this as it may, he did not feel satisfied with the ordinary life of a boy of 16 in his circumstances and surroundings, and was but four days older than this when he took his future in his own hands and ran away from home. He found his way to Mercer County, Ohio, where there was work for all, and worked at his trade during the summer. In the fall he went on the Ohio River as a hand on a flatboat running out of Portsmouth, Cincinnati and lower points. He made 21 trips to New Orleans and return. At first his wages were $15 per month, but when he closed out his contract with his employers, he was receiving $75 per month as second pilot.

Captain Rhodes landed first at Fort Recovery on April 12, 1844, and during his flatboat experience he lived at this place, working during the summers as a house-joiner. When he became a resident here, there were but five families in the hamlet. Henry Lipps kept the first hotel, a log structure, and our subject was one of his boarders. The little eight-year-old daughter play-

ing around at that time later became the wife of Captain Rhodes. Until 1854 he continued running on the boats up and down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, but after his marriage he engaged in farming. He purchased 100¼ acres of farm land, which was the last piece of canal land entered in Mercer County, the transaction having been carried out by Henry Lipps. For this land Captain Rhodes paid the sum of $960. At that time it was wholly in its natural, wild state, without any improvementss. He still makes his home here, having owned the property since November, 1859, and it is still intact, with the exception of a few acres which the Lake Erie and Western Railroad have taken off. In the fall of 1865 he bought 6½ acres directly across the road, in Gibson township, for which he paid $40 per acre. His residence thus stands in Recovery township and his barn in Gibson township.

Captain Rhodes enjoyed but a few years of quiet, agricultural life after settling on his farm, for, as soon as the Civil War broke out, he began to make preparations to take an active part in it. On August 16, 1862, he enlisted as a private, in Company C, 118th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., contracting to serve for three years. At the organization of the company, he was elected 2nd lieutenant, on December 15, 1862, he was promoted to be 1st lieutenant, and on April 11, 1864, was promoted to the captaincy of Company C, 118th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf. After a hazardous service of three years, during which time he experienced every hardship of a soldier's life except wounds, he was mustered out at Salisbury, North Carolina, June 24, 1865, and honorably discharged at Cleveland, Ohio, July 12, 1865.

It would be almost impossible to follow, in a work of this kind, the actual events of Captain Rhodes' military career, as they were too numerous, and we content ourselves with giving merely an outline. He participated in the battles of Kingston, Tennessee, and Mossy Creek, Tennessee, and was all through the famous Atlanta campaign, during which time his regiment was under continuous fire for four months. This campaign included the battles of Dalton, Buzzard's Roost, Kenesaw Mountain, Resaca, Dallas, Pumpkin Vine Creek, all the battles near Atlanta and the great battle at Atlanta, July 22 and 28, 1864. He participated also in the hard-fought battles of Franklin and Nashville, after which his regiment followed Hood's demoralized army as far back as Clifton on its retreat southward. The regiment then went by rail and steamer to Washington, then to Fortress Monroe and Smithville, North Carolina, and marched up Cape Fear River to Fort Anderson and assisted in the capture of the same. This regiment was on the skirmish line and was the first to go over the fortifications and reach the flag on the fort. They seized and waved the colors to the river fleet steaming up the river. This regiment participated also in the capture of Wilmington, North Carolina, on February

22, 1865, firing a salute of 100 guns to celebrate this victory gained on Washington's birthday.

On March 8, 1865, the regiment made a forced march to Kingston, North Carolina, wading through swamps for five days, the water being sometimes as high as the soldiers' hips, assisted in the capture of Goldsboro, and later joined Sherman's army. Captain Rhodes passed through all the hardships of the subsequent campaign and never suffered from a wound of any kind and was sick but for a short season. He was captured twice in one day by the same division of Wheeler's cavalry, but was not held on either occasion longer than sufficed for his captors to rob him of everything they could carry off. He is the only commissioned officer who left Mercer County and returned with the same company. At different times he commanded every company in his regiment except Company E.

Upon his return to Fort Recovery from the army, Captain Rhodes completed the house which he had begun in 1861. He has been a continuous and honored resident of Recovery township ever since and has been active in the management of the public affairs of the community for many years. For 17 years he served as one of the councilmen of Fort Recovery and for an extended period has served in a highly satisfactory manner as township clerk and as a justice of the peace.

On November 20, 1855, Captain Rhodes was married at Fort Recovery to Sarah Jane Lipps, a daughter of Hon. Henry Lipps, a pioneer here and a representative in the State Legislature in 1849-50. Mrs. Rhodes was born at Fort Recovery, Ohio, in 1836. To this marriage three children were born, namely: Jane Ann, who lives at home; Mary E., now a resident of Los Angeles, California, who is the widow of James A. Scott and the mother of one child; and Estella, who is the widow of Guilke Wallingsford, killed in a railway accident in 1901—she has one son, Leo.

Captain Rhodes is one of the leading men in the Grand Army of the Republic in this section of Ohio. He joined the organization at Union City, Indiana, in 1867, and has the distinction of being the oldest Grand Army man in Mercer County. He was mustering officer of this district for several years and instituted the posts at Rockford and Middlepoint, and was the first commander of Harrod-McDaniel Post, No. 181, at Fort Recovery. He is also an Odd Fellow and a Mason, and was the first worshipful master elected by Fort Recovery Lodge, No. 539, F. and A. M.

Our subject relates an interesting incident of the days of 1851, when he was still a young man. With David J. Roop, one day early in July, he was searching for bullets on the old battle-field where General St. Clair met defeat, and accidentally found one of the pits in which the bodies of the victims of the terrible slaughter on that fatal 4th of November, 1791, had been buried.

The remains were re-interred on September 10, 1851, being buried in 13 black walnut coffins, made by Mr. Rhodes and Robert G. Blake. The ceremonies of that day made it Mercer County's greatest day of the 19th century. Fully 5,000 people were present, coming from many of the counties of Western Ohio and Eastern Indiana, to pay a tribute of respect to the fallen heroes. Judge Bellamy Storer rode all the way from Cincinnati to Fort Recovery, on horseback, a journey of five days, in order to deliver the funeral oration.

It seems almost unnecessary to add that Captain Rhodes is a man of whom Mercer County is proud. His long and eventful life has served to prove his mettle as a man and to show to his fellow-citizens the fruits of patriotism, courage, industry and fidelity to duty.

JOHN W. SHIVELY

John W. Shively, a leading citizen of Hopewell township, formerly township treasurer and the owner of a general store at Stedcke, was born in Jefferson township, Mercer County, Ohio, May 24, 1861. He is a son of William M. and Sarah E. (Carr) Shively.

Both parents of Mr. Shively were born in Ohio. The father was a soldier in the service of his country in the Civil War, and lost his life in that great struggle. It thus came about that our subject was thrown entirely upon his own resources when but 10 years of age. He left Jefferson township and for a number of years worked at farming throughout Mercer County, and later operated a farm for himself. In 1887 he embarked in the mercantile business at Stedcke, which he has conducted ever since, each year enlarging and adding to the stock of goods handled. He owns a farm of 40 acres in Hopewell township and another, of 80 acres, in Butler township and also operates another store, at Mercer. He is one of the county's enterprising and successful business men. He has also been very active in politics, has served as clerk of the Board of Elections of Hopewell township and for six consecutive years was township treasurer. He has also served as postmaster at Stedcke. He is a stanch Republican.

Mr. Shively has been twice married. His first wife, Sarah E. Buch, at death left two children, Melvin and Oral, the latter of whom is the wife of John Sielschott, of Mercer. He married (second) Eliza Crouch, and they have five children, namely: Chloe, Florence, Walter, Nora and Ernest B. Both he and his wife are members of the German Baptist Church.

Mr. Shively is a representative, self-made man and his material success is but the result of close application to business, honest dealing with his

fellow-citizens and an integrity of character, which has brought him the confidence and esteem of those with whom he has come in contact.

CHARLES H. McKIM

CHARLES A. McKIM, postmaster at Celina and one of Mercer County's leading business men, was born in Erie County, Ohio, November 22, 1859, and is a son of Dr. James F. and Abby (La Boitteaux) McKim. For many years Dr. McKim was a prominent physician and surgeon at Erie, Ohio. He was survived by three children.

Charles A. McKim was 13 years old when his home was changed to the State of Indiana, where he remained until June, 1880, when he came to Mercer County, Ohio. For a number of years he was largely interested in the timber business and then opened a drug-store. He became one of the leading druggists at Celina and finally disposed of his drug interests in 1900. In May, 1898, he was appointed postmaster; he has made a record as a faithful and efficient public official. This office is one of importance, the government affording him one assistant and 12 employees, including the rural mail carriers.

In 1870 Mr. McKim was united in marriage with Elizabeth Snyder, the accomplished daughter of the late veteran journalist and Democratic statesman, Hon. A. P. J. Snyder. An extended sketch of Mr. Snyder will be found in this work. Mrs. McKim has inherited much of her father's literary ability and is the capable editor of the Mercer County *Standard,* with which he was connected for 50 years. Politically Mr. McKim is identified with the Republican party. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian Church.

WARD CLIFTON ZELLER, M. D.

WARD CLIFTON ZELLER, M. D., a successful physician and surgeon who is in the active practice of his profession at Rockford was born in Darke County, Ohio, March 5, 1874, and is a son of Dr. B. F. and Emily B. (Bauder) Zeller.

Dr. B. F. Zeller, father of our subject, was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and came to Clark County, Ohio, in boyhood, when about 15 years of age, accompanying a brother-in-law, Andrew Mouk. He remained in Clark County until the beginning of the Civil War, when shortly after Fort Sumter was fired on, he enlisted in the 44th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., and participated in many of the most decisive battles of the war, including that

of Corinth. After his army service was over he went to Iowa, where he taught school. Later he entered the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati, where he was graduated in the class of 1875, and then settled at Stelvideo, Darke County, Ohio, where he successfully practiced for five years. His next location was Versailles, Darke County, where he remained several years, and then went to Texas, where he spent some years at Uvalda, returning then to Ohio. With the exception of a period spent at Crab Orchard, Kentucky, as physician at the summer resort there, Dr. B. F. Zeller has resided ever since in Champaign County, Ohio. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Dr. B. F. Zeller was united in marriage with Emily B. Bauder, a daughter of Levi and Cynthia (Allen) Bauder, the latter of whom is a granddaughter of Gen. Ethan Allen. Dr. and Mrs. Zeller have three sons, Henry Rush, a graduate of the Ohio Medical University, at Columbus, who is in the active practice of medicine at St. Paris, Champaign County, Ohio; F. Arthur, also a physician, graduating in the same class with his brother at the Ohio Medical University, who is located at Union City, Indiana; and Ward Clifton. The family presents the interesting spectacle of all the sons adopting the father's profession.

Ward C. Zeller after graduating from the High School at Christiansburg, entered the Ohio Normal University at Ada and received his diploma with the class of 1894. In the following year he entered the Ohio Medical University, at Columbus, and was graduated in the winter of 1896-97. He first located for practice at St. Paris, Champaign County, Ohio, after having taken an examination for assistant surgeon of the United States Army, which necessitated his remaining in Washington City for six months at the army museum. Passing this examination successfully, he received an appointment in the Philippine Islands, but later resigned this office and returned to St. Paris. His rank while in the service was that of 1st lieutenant, with the salary and allowances of that rank.

Dr. Zeller continued to practice at St. Paris until 1905, when he turned his patients over to his brother and, after assisting his other brother to establish a practice at Union City, left there in July, 1905, and came to Rockford. He found here a hearty welcome.

In 1892 Dr. Zeller was married to Jennie Smith, who resided at No. 51 King avenue, Columbus, and is a daughter of John and Sarah Smith. The mother of Mrs. Zeller was a Gregg, a grand-niece of General Gregg, of the Confederate Army, and a member of the prominent Gregg family of Bourbon County, Kentucky. The father of Mrs. Zeller served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Dr. and Mrs. Zeller have two sons: Arthur Clifton, aged 13 years; and

Harold Nye, aged 11 years. Both are bright, intelligent youths and it will be interesting to note, in their future careers, whether they inherit the professional leanings of father and grandfather.

In political sentiment, Dr. Zeller is a Republican but is too much occupied with professional duties to permit of much activity in public affairs. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias lodge at St. Paris and to the Sons of Veterans camp at Christiansburg. He possesses the personality of a physician and wins confidence in the sick room and hearty esteem among his fellow-citizens.

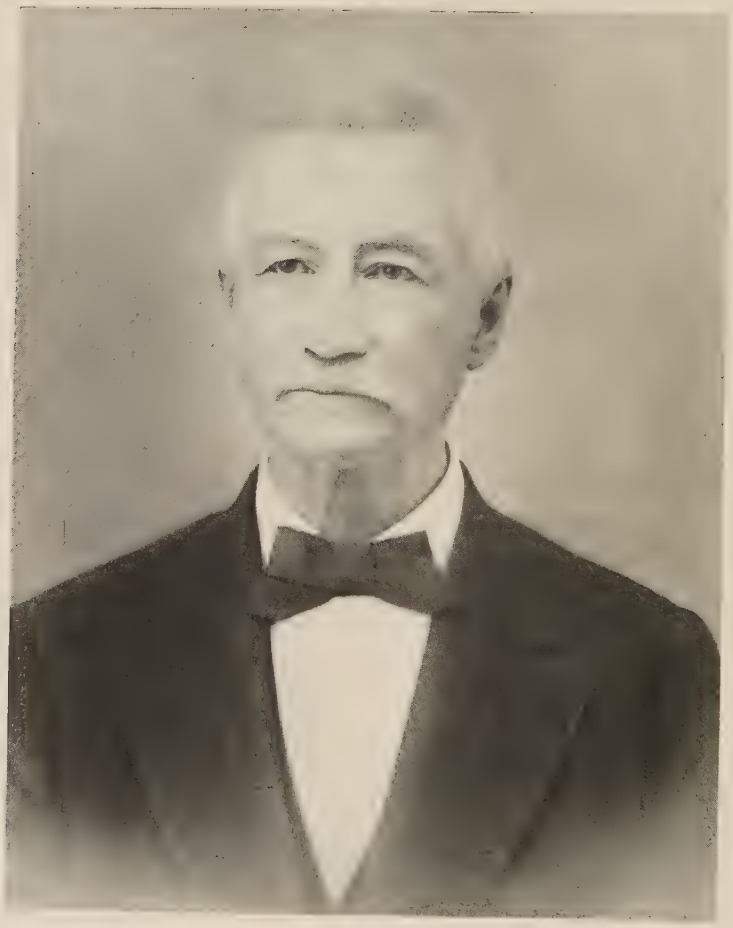
TRUSSTEN BRUCE SNYDER

Trussten Bruce Snyder, who resides on his fine farm of 120 acres located in Section 18, is one of Union township's most progressive and representative citizens. He was born August 23, 1876, and is a son of George and Mary Ann (Lytle) Snyder.

George Snyder was born in Union township, Mercer County, Ohio, about 60 years ago, and lives about a mile and a half from the subject of this sketch. George Snyder's father was born in Hocking County, Ohio, and was one of the pioneers of Mercer County; he first located in Van Wert County and afterwards moved to Mercer County, settling in Union township, where he still resides. The mother of our subject was born in Wayne County, Ohio, and is still living. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. George Snyder; Clarence Fideles, who married Cora Groupe and resides on a farm west of his father's place; Etta, who married John Yeoman and lives in Indiana seven miles south of Decatur; Winnie, who married O. H. Krugh, of Union township; and Trussten Bruce.

Trussten B. Snyder was reared on his father's farm in Union township and received his education in the township schools, attending during the winter months and working on the farm during the summer. For the past 10 years Mr. Snyder has been located on his present farm, where he has been engaged in general farming. He is also interested to a considerable extent in raising stock. He has 50 acres of his land in corn, 30 acres in wheat and the remainder in hay and pasture; the farm is one of the best improved in the township.

On May 20, 1895, Mr. Snyder was married to Effie Hays, a daughter of L. P. and Cleopatra (Webb) Hays, both of whom were natives of Mercer County. Mr. Hays died in 1904 at the age of 64 years. Mrs. Hays is still living at the age of 66 years. They were the parents of the following children: Dora, deceased; Effie, wife of our subject; Icy, deceased; and Oscar, deceased. Mrs. Hays and her daughter are the only members of the family living.



JOSEPH SAGER, M. D.

Three children have been born to our subject and wife, namely: Leland, born January 20, 1897; Bernice, born September 21, 1899; and Victor, born November 12, 1902. Mr. Snyder is a Democrat in politics and is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

JOSEPH SAGER, M. D.

Joseph Sager, M. D., of Celina, whose portrait accompanies this sketch is one of the State's eminent physicians and surgeons, a valued contributor to medical literature and a careful, thoughtful, skilled man of science. Dr. Sager was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, January 19, 1839, and is a son of Shem and Mary (Nonnmaker) Sager and grandson of Gabriel Sager.

Gabriel Sager was born in Baden, Germany. After emigrating to America, he settled first in Pennsylvania, and then removed to Virginia, where he held slaves until he united with the Mennonite Church, when he freed them. During the War of the Revolution he served under General Washington as a private in a Virginia company. He married a sister of Captain Young, who was a staff officer under General Washington.

Shem Sager, the father of our subject, was born in 1782 in Shenandoah County, Virginia, and moved to Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1810. During the War of 1812, he served first as a private and later as an orderly to Gen. Andrew Jackson, being present at the battle of New Orleans. For his second wife he married Mary Nonnmaker, who was born at Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1806. She died in 1854, followed by her husband in 1857. They had eight children. All of the seven sons served with distinction in the Civil War.

The boyhood of Joseph Sager was passed in Fairfield County. During 1857 and 1858 he was given educational opportunities at Findlay, Ohio, after which he taught school. In 1859 he entered upon the study of medicine with Dr. J. J. Updegraff, a noted physician and surgeon at St. Louis, Missouri, and later he attended two courses of lectures at what was then known as the McDowell Medical College of that city. In 1861 he entered the Union Army as a hospital steward and was taken prisoner at the battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky, in January, 1862, being held a prisoner of war for four months at Island No. 10. In April, 1862, after effecting his escape, with a comrade, he made his way, with great difficulty, to New Orleans, where he reported to Gen. Benjamin F. Butler who was in command of that city. The latter assigned him to duty at St. James Hospital, where he remained until the spring of 1863, when he was transferred to the United States steamer "Tennessee," in the capacity of surgeon's steward. By the close of the war the young student had acquired practice and experience, which years of collegiate training could scarcely have afforded him.

After his return from the army, Dr. Sager attended a course of medical lectures at Starling Medical College, Columbus, and received his diploma from this institution. Since then he has taken several post-graduate courses—in 1871 at Starling and in 1880 and 1881 at the Medical University of Baltimore. Dr. Sager engaged in practice at North Washington, Ohio, until 1884, when he came to Celina. Here he engaged in a general practice, but made a specialty of diseases of the eye and ear. He still continues an active practitioner and few in this section enjoy more fully the confidence and esteem of the public.

Dr. Sager was married (first) to Miss Shumaker, who died in 1886. His second marriage, in 1888, was to Jennie Krisher, who on the maternal side was related to Bishop Harris, formerly a noted divine of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. Sager died April 16, 1905. On May 5, 1906, Dr. Sager was again married, to Mrs. Gabie Williams, of Celina, but at the time a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio; she is a daughter of David Lininger, of Celina. Dr. Sager and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Dr. Sager is surgeon for the Cincinnati Northern Railroad and belongs to the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association, which he has served as president; to the Mercer County Medical Society, of which he is president; to the Ohio State Medical Society, the American Medical Association, the National Association of Railway Surgeons and the American Microscopical Society.

Dr. Sager holds many advanced views, which a long course of practice and scientific study have developed. In a number of valuable contributions to various medical journals and others embodied in lectures before medical bodies, he has made clear to the less observant student the scientific value of his researches and the soundness of his opinion. He has a large and representative following.

ELI T. HASTINGS

The subject of this sketch was born in Sussex County, Delaware, November 10, 1845. His parents were Wateman W. and Eleanor E. (Collins) Hastings. The father was the son of James Hastings, whose ancestors came to America from England early in the 18th century. The mother was the daughter of Solomon Collins, who was of Irish descent.

Wateman Hastings moved with his family to Mercer County, Ohio, in August, 1846, and settled on a farm three miles south of Fort Recovery. In the family are four brothers and three sisters, viz: Eli T., James, Zachary T., Mrs. Ella Ralph and Mrs. Frank Lowe, of Fort Recovery; Mrs. William Hamline, of Celina, Ohio; and Charles W., of Reynolds, Washington.

Eli T. Hastings remained on his father's farm until 1864, when at

the age of 18, during the War of the Rebellion, he enlisted in the U. S. Army, serving in the 156th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf. After returning home at the expiration of his term of enlistment, he engaged in teaching school for some time. On September 12, 1871, he was married to Elmira E. Davison, daughter of James and Mary Davison. They have two sons and three daughters, viz: Carrie A., Mary E., J. Frank, Roy D. and Hope H. The daughters live with their parents. Roy married Gertrude Graham and lives in Youngstown, Ohio. Frank, a graduate of the University of Michigan, is practicing medicine in Hancock, Michigan.

In 1881 Mr. Hastings engaged in the retail shoe business in Fort Recovery, he retired from the business in 1905.

In politics he is a Republican. In religion he is a firm believer in the principles of Christianity. He was raised in the faith of the Congregational Church, to which he and his family still adhere.

GEORGE W. FRISINGER

George W. Frisinger, a prominent citizen of Mercer County, who served six years as county commissioner, resides in a fine home at Rockford and owns some 190 acres of improved farming land in Dublin township. He was born in Mercer County, Ohio, May 11, 1853, and is a son of Nathan and Jane (Ryan) Frisinger.

Nathan Frisinger, the father of our subject, was born July 3, 1816, in Montgomery County, Ohio, and was a son of William and Catherine (Harp) Frisinger, the former of whom was born in 1794, in Virginia, and was the eldest child in a family of 11 children. His father, who was a tailor, a miller and distiller, also served as a soldier in the War of 1812, but died soon after his return from the field.

William Frisinger, our subject's grandfather, was reared on a farm and also learned the tailoring trade. While still a young man he settled in Champaign County, Ohio, and was the founder of the family in this State. During an early visit to Illinois he also purchased land there. In 1827 he located permanently in Mercer County, one and a half miles east of Rockford, purchasing at first 160 acres of timber land. This he partially cleared and then improved the cleared portion in such a manner and to such an extent that he made an excellent farm. Later he added 60 acres to this farm and here he spent the rest of his life, dying in April, 1837. He was one of the earliest settlers in Mercer County and he and his family saw much pioneer hardship.

In 1817 William Frisinger married Catherine Harp, who was a daughter of Peter Harp, and they had 11 children, as follows: Nathan, the father of

our subject; Peter, a prosperous farmer of Dublin township; John, deceased, who was a farmer in Dublin township; Sarah, deceased at 14 years of age; Elizabeth, deceased at six years; Jacob, deceased, who was a well-known farmer of Dublin township; Ann, deceased at 11 years; Cynthia, deceased, who was the wife of the late Jeremiah Dull; and Lydia, Catherine and William, all deceased. The mother of this family came of Dutch ancestry, was born about 1800, in Pennsylvania, and died in 1854. For many years she was a consistent member of the Baptist Church.

George W. Frisinger remained at home assisting on the home farm until the age of 21 years, in the meantime obtaining his education in the public schools. After marriage he remained one year on the home place and then inherited and partly bought a farm of his own to which he has added at various times until he now owns 190 acres in Dublin township. He continues general farming and also is interested in the buying and shipping of horses.

On November 10, 1874, Mr. Frisinger was married (first) to Lida Archer, who died June 11, 1886. She was a daughter of Henry and Lucinda Archer. One child survived her, Merritt, who is now operating a farm of 180 acres for his father. Merritt married Nellie Miller, daughter of Peter A. Miller, and they have two interesting children, Lowell, aged six years and Donald, aged three years. In March, 1887, Mr. Frisinger was married (second) to Lillie McDonald, who died five months later. She was a daughter of Dr. McDonald of Rockford. On January 10, 1888, Mr. Frisinger was married (third) to Rena A. Hesser, a daughter of Lewis and Elizabeth (Rhodes) Hesser, born at Lincoln, Nebraska, April 29, 1871. Her father was born in 1848, near Red Key, Indiana, and her mother in the same place, one year later. Mr. and Mrs. Frisinger have two children: Rolla Nathan, who was born February 19, 1890; and Stella Marie, born May 29, 1896.

Mr. Frisinger is one of the county's prominent Democrats and wide-awake politicians. He has been elected to responsible office a number of times and served six years as township trustee, was for 11 years a member of the Board of Education and in 1896 was the Democratic candidate for county commissioner. He was elected to that office and approval of his services was shown by his re-election in 1900. He has been a member of the Knights of Pythias for a number of years.

WILLIAM EICHAR

William Eichar, formerly a member of the board of trustees of Hopewell township, where he is a respected and prominent citizen, resides on his finely cultivated farm in this township, although his 400 acres of land extend also into Dublin township. He was born February 3, 1842, in Hopewell

township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Jacob and Sarah (Buck) Eichar.

Jacob Eichar was born in Pennsylvania and accompanied his father to Hopewell township when the country was practically a wilderness. The Eichars were truely pioneer settlers. Jacob Eichar was a man of sturdy strength and great industry and he was also a man in whom his fellow-citizens placed the highest confidence. He faithfully served the township as a trustee and in other offices and during his active life was a leading man of his section. He died in 1898 and the three survivors of his family of children are: William, Lafayette and Peter, all residents of Hopewell township.

William Eichar was reared in Hopewell township, which has always been his home. His education was obtained in the district schools and his attention has been given to general farming and stock-raising.

On May 2, 1861, William Eichar married Altha Rutledge, who was born in Perry County, Ohio, June 23, 1838, and is a daughter of John and Altha (Matthews) Rutledge, the former of whom was born in Maryland and the latter in Virginia. She accompanied her parents in 1852 from Perry to Mercer County, where they passed the rest of their lives, dying in Hopewell township. Mrs. Eichar has one surviving sister and two brothers, namely: Jehu, living in Minnesota; Mary, widow of David McChristy, now resides in Black Creek township; and John, a resident of Rockford, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Eichar have four children living, namely: Leonora, wife of Martin Weisenborn, of Hopewell township; John A. and Joseph E., of Hopewell township; and George, of Dublin township. Mary J. is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Eichar are consistent members of the Society of Friends.

In political sentiment, Mr. Eichar is a Republican. He has served as township trustee for a number of years. Both he and his wife are well known among the old settlers of the township and enjoy universal respect and esteem.

CALVIN WILLSHIRE RILEY

Calvin Willshire Riley, a well-known citizen of Jefferson township, residing on his homestead of 128 acres, in sections 3 and 34 and also owning another fine farm of 154 acres near Celina, was born at Celina, Ohio, April 16, 1860, and is a son of Calvin E. and Gabrilla (Brandon) Riley.

Mr. Riley was about two years old when his parents moved from Celina to the country home where he was reared, a beautiful location on Lake Mercer, some three and a half miles east of Celina. He attended the Old-town district school near his home, and later the Celina High School and still later the Normal School at Valparaiso, Indiana. When he was 18 years of age

he began to teach school and spent one year at the Old-town school and another year at the Harmon school. With the exception of the year 1888, which he spent running a creamery at Fort Recovery, Mr. Riley has passed the whole of his married life on his present homestead farm. In the spring of 1882 he erected his commodious and comfortable frame residence and substantial barns. With these and other extensive improvements he has added greatly to the value of his property. In September, 1906, he purchased another farm, becoming the owner of a very valuable property of 154 acres, situated near Celina. In addition to farming his own lands, Mr. Riley farms for his father and thus operates some 300 acres. He makes stock-raising a feature of his work and specializes in raising horses, sheep and hogs.

For the past 15 years Mr. Riley has also been interested in the oil business and at one time owned a one-fourth interest in four strings of oil tools. He spent a part of the years 1905 and 1906 in the Illinois field, where he has land leased. He also has some oil leases in Mercer County. His many business interests are handled with great capacity, his progressive and enterprising methods bringing him success in almost every line.

On June 13, 1881, Mr. Riley was married to Fannie E. DeRush, a daughter of William DeRush, of St. Marys, Ohio. They have three children, viz: Robert A., Calvin E., Jr., and James H.

Mr. Riley is not a very active politician but he is much interested at all times in the educational progress of his community and has been willing to serve as school director because he has thought he could be of value. He is a member of the Masons and the Maccabees.

JONAS WEIST

Jonas Weist, a well-known citizen and successful farmer and stock-raiser, residing on his valuable property which consists of 80 acres of land in Hopewell township, Mercer County, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, December 3, 1841, and is a son of Samuel and Lydia (Miesse) Weist.

The parents of Mr. Weist were of German ancestry, born in Pennsylvania, whence they came to Ohio and settled in early days in Fairfield County, where they lived until death.

Jonas Weist was reared on his father's farm in Fairfield County, and from his youth has been engaged in farming and stock-raising. He was formerly much interested in the raising of sheep but latterly has not given that industry so much attention. During the Civil War he went out from Fairfield County to assist in driving the raider Morgan from Ohio. In the spring of 1869 he removed from Fairfield to Mercer County and settled on a farm of

160 acres, which he cleared from the woods, 80 acres of which he still retains.

Mr. Weist was married (first) August 28, 1861, in Fairfield County, to Catherine Crider, who became the mother of six children, the four survivors being as follows: William H., residing in Hopewell township, who married Emma Clutter and has four children—Nellie, Glenn, Pauline and Orly; Lanassa, who is the wife of Samuel Hayes—they reside in Dublin township and have two children, Bert and Maud; Charles D., who married Pearl Murlin, has one child, Carl, and lives in Union township; Clarence, a practicing physician at Columbus, who married Mary Davis. Mr. Weist was married (second) to Sarah Nuding, born in Hocking County, Ohio, a daughter of the late Frederick Nuding.

Politically, Mr. Weist is a Republican. He served six years as township trustee and at present is a member of the Board of Education of Hopewell township. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

S. V. SLABAUGH

S. V. Slabaugh, a well-known citizen of Hopewell township, where he owns a finely developed farm of 95 acres, situated in section 14, is the present treasurer of the Mercer County Mutual Telephone Company, of which utility he was one of the leading promoters. Mr. Slabaugh was born in Licking County, Ohio, February 5, 1854, and is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Higgy) Slabaugh.

Jacob Slabaugh was of German ancestry and was born in Pennsylvania. He married Elizabeth Higgy, who was born in Switzerland. Her parents came to America in her childhood and settled first at Buffalo, New York, and then removed to Licking County, Ohio, where she married. Her death took place in Fairfield County, just across the line from Licking, in which latter county Jacob Slabaugh died in 1898; both were interred in Licking County.

S. V. Slabaugh was reared in his native locality and was mainly educated in the schools of Licking County, for a short time only enjoying the advantages offered at the Otterbein University at Westerville, Ohio. He then taught 14 winter terms of school in his native county, and in the spring of 1888 settled in Hopewell township. He served several years as clerk of the township and has always been active in public affairs although an independent voter, identified with no particular party.

Mr. Slabaugh married Alice Jeffries, born in Licking County, a daughter of Jerome Jeffries. They have three children, namely: Raymond M., Virgil L. and Edith M., all at home. The family belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church in Center township, in which Mr. Slabaugh is a class leader. He is

recognized as one of the progressive, far-seeing men of the township, one whose modern ideas have proved very serviceable and acceptable to a large body of his fellow-citizens.

GEORGE RICKETS

George Rickets, a veteran of the Civil War and a prominent citizen and old settler of Hopewell township, resides on his well-improved farm of 100 acres, located not far from Oregon station. Mr. Rickets was born August 3, 1834, in Fairfield County, Ohio, and is a son of Samuel and Sarah E. (Raudabaugh) Rickets.

Samuel Rickets was born in Culpeper County, Virginia, and his wife in Hocking County, Ohio, where the Raudabaugh family had settled at a very early date. They resided for a time in Hocking County, but later removed to Fairfield County, when pioneer conditions still existed.

George Rickets received his early education in an old log school house in the vicinity of his father's farm. He assisted in developing the land until 1864, when he enlisted in Company K, 156th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., which became a part of the Army of the Cumberland. After completing his first term of service, he became a veteran in February, 1865, re-enlisting in Company D, 193rd Reg., Ohio Vet. Vol. Inf. He was honorably discharged on August 10, 1865, having participated in innumerable skirmishes and several battles, the most important of which was that at Cumberland, Maryland, on August 1, 1864. The movements of his regiment took him over a large part of Maryland, Kentucky and Virginia. Mr. Rickets draws a pension of $12 per month.

In view of the present appearance of the farm of Mr. Rickets, it seems almost impossible to believe that when he settled in his little log cabin here, in 1865, this whole section of Hopewell township was still a forest, but since then he has cleared up his large farm, and in 1873 he built his present comfortable residence. He stands as a fair representative of the good farmers of this section of Mercer County.

On March 3, 1859, Mr. Rickets was married to Susan Crider, born in Fairfield County, Ohio, a daughter of the late Jacob Crider, who was a pioneer in Fairfield County. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Rickets, as follows: Sarah E., who is the wife of Joseph Montgomery, of Fairfield County; Perley R., who is the wife of John Wilson, of Hopewell township; and Charles C., who married Almeda Fast, resides with his father, engaged in farming.

In political sentiment, Mr. Rickets is a stanch Republican. He is a prominent member of Copp's Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, of which

CAPT. JAMES RILEY

he is a trustee. He is a man who has always stood high in the estimation of his fellow-citizens, one whose sterling character is recognized by all who know him.

CAPT. JAMES RILEY

Prominent among the first and best-known pioneers of Western Ohio, was the late Capt. James Riley, who won distinction as a traveler, navigator, author and statesman. He was born at Middletown, Connecticut, October 27, 1777, and died at sea, March 13, 1840.

Like many other lads brought up in ship-building centers, James Riley early sought the adventures held out by a seafaring life and was but 15 years old when he shipped as a cabin boy on a trading vessel to the West Indies. By the time he was 20 years old he was master of a ship and had visited all the best-known commercial points that foreign vessels then touched. His whole life on the sea which covered many years was more or less adventurous and much of it is incorporated in his interesting book, "Riley's Narrative," which at the time was the first reliable account of many unknown countries and of savage tribes. A thrilling experience related was of the wreck of his vessel, in August, 1815, on the reef off Cape Bojador, Africa. The shipwrecked captain and crew landed without loss of life but were taken captive by a wandering tribe of Arabs by whom they were sold to Moorish merchantmen, who made slaves of them and transported them to the Desert of Sahara. Of their escape and of the final return to the United States after a long absence, Captain Riley writes entertainingly in his work.

Wearied of the sea and financially prostrated by the loss of his vessel and cargo, Captain Riley then turned his attention to the rapidly developing western part of Ohio. Securing a government contract, in association with his eldest son, James Watson Riley, he surveyed and laid out counties and townships all through the northwestern part of this State. He was for a period extensively engaged in the erection of mills, the building of roads and the opening up of opportunities for settlers. In 1823-24 he represented Darke and Shelby counties in the General Assembly of Ohio and he it was who introduced the bill which laid the foundation for the State's present superior public-school system. Failing health and a return of the old seafaring spirit induced him to return to commercial life on the water and, as probably he would have chosen, his last days were passed surrounded by the element which he loved so well.

In January, 1802, Captain Riley was married to Phebe Miller, a daughter of Hosea Miller, a "Minute Man" during the Revolutionary War. They had five children, namely: James Watson; Horatio Sprague; William Willshire;

Amelia Ann, who married Dr. William Murdock, of Urbana, Ohio; and Phebe, who married John Jay Beach, of Connecticut.

James Watson Riley, the eldest of the above family, became one of Mercer County's most distinguished men. He was born in Middletown, Connecticut, February 20, 1804. When he was 19 years of age, he assisted his father in surveying Southern Michigan and Northern Ohio and Indiana. Before he had reached his majority he was appointed clerk of courts of Mercer County. At that time the county seat was St. Marys, but in 1839 it was moved to Celina. This position he held for a period of 20 years, resigning it in 1841 to take charge of the United States Land Office at Lima, being one of President William Henry Harrison's first appointees.

James Watson Riley was originally a Whig until the formation of the Republican party, when he became one of the earliest and stanchest supporters of the new organization. In 1843 he was elected to the Ohio Legislature and subsequently was appointed chief clerk of the State auditor. Upon his resignation of this position, he returned to Celina, always having been deeply interested in the development of this place. In 1853 he removed to Sandusky in order to give his younger children better educational advantages, and became attorney for the Sandusky, Mansfield & Newark Railroad Company. His death occurred at Celina, January 1, 1870, from an accident received at Toledo.

In September, 1827, Mr. Riley married Susan Ellis, of Alexander, New York, and they had six children born to them, namely: William Willshire, a physician and statesman, at Judsonia, Arkansas; Calvin Erastus, president of the Commercial Bank Company of Celina; Amelia Ann, deceased, formerly wife of Capt. William McMurray, a hero of the Civil War; James Watson, Jr., residing in Celina, who distinguished himself in the Civil War; Susan (wife of Hon. E. M. Ashley, of Denver, Colorado), who was one of the vice-presidents of the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago, and the first president of the Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs; and Mahala, who is the wife of Judge A. J. Hodder, a prominent resident of Boston, Massachusetts. Mr. and Mrs. James W. Riley also reared and adopted six orphan children.

Portraits of Capt. James Riley and James Watson Riley appear on other pages of this work.

JOSEPH NUDING

Joseph Nuding, who resides on his finely cultivated farm of 160 acres, situated in section 1, Hopewell township, was born March 17, 1845, in Fairfield County, Ohio, and is a son of John F. and Barbara (Engle) Nuding.

John F. Nuding was born in Germany, January 21, 1815, and his wife in Fairfield County, Ohio, June 17, 1818. Prior to 1848, John F. Nuding and family lived in Hocking County, but in that year removed to Mercer County, Mr. Nuding settling on a farm in Hopewell township, about four and one-half miles from the present site of Celina. His log cabin was one of the very first erected in the great stretch of forest that then covered all this part of Mercer County, and the family endured many of the hardships and privations to which pioneers were subjected. Mr. Nuding spent the remaining nine years of life engaged in clearing up his land, his death occurring September 1, 1857. His widow survived many years, passing away September 16, 1900. The children of John F. Nuding and wife were numerous and there are six who survive as follows: Maria, who is the wife of John H. Long, of Lima; Joseph; Sarah, who is the wife of Jonas Weist, of Hopewell township; William H., who lives at Mercer; Leah, now a resident of Mercer County, who is the widow of Joseph Lewis, late of Jay County, Indiana; and Alma, who is the wife of Hiram Grissom, of Jay County, Indiana.

Joseph Nuding was reared to man's estate on his father's farm in Hopewell township, was educated in its public schools, and through his years of mature life has had all his interests centered here. He has always been a farmer and has managed his agricultural operations in so judicious a manner that an ample fortune has been realized, but at the same time he has given attention to the advancement of the welfare of the community at large, as becomes a good citizen. He has assisted in the making of good roads, in the building of churches and schools and, as trustee of the township for two terms, helped to put its affairs on a sound financial basis.

On November 14, 1878, he was married to Effie Roberts, who was born in Mercer County, Ohio, a daughter of the late John Roberts of Center township, where he was an early settler. Mr. and Mrs. Nuding have had four children, the two survivors being, Grover S. and May.

Mr. Nuding is a stanch Democrat and is a very active party man. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is a trustee and steward. In every relation of life he is respected and esteemed.

CLEMENT V. MAY

Clement V. May, infirmary director, who is prominently identified with the agricultural and political interests of Hopewell township and resides upon his well-improved farm of 121 acres, in section 6, was born October 12, 1865, in Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Elias and Susan (Lazure) May.

The parents of Mr. May were both natives of Ross County, Ohio. In

early married life they settled in Liberty township, Mercer County, where for many years they were representative farmers and highly respected residents. The father died in September, 1903, but the mother still survives, having reached her 79th year, and lives at Randolph, Nebraska. Of the children born to Elias May and wife, 10 survive, as follows: Mary A., who is the wife of A. J. Ricker, of Indiana; Byron L., who lives in Dublin township; John R., who resides in Hopewell township; Caroline, who is the widow of Thomas Wright, and a resident of Randolph, Nebraska; Wilson T., who resides in Hopewell township; Clement V.; Joseph M., who lives near Toledo, Ohio; Daniel, who resides in Nebraska; William W., who lives near Toledo; and Marion, who is a resident of Randolph, Nebraska.

Clement V. May was reared in Liberty township and attended the public schools. He has always been engaged in agricultural pursuits, farming and stock-raising, and for six seasons he ran a threshing machine, owning a full outfit. He is one of the progressive men of his locality, in business as well as in public affairs, and is a liberal supporter of the various agencies at work which are designed to add to the efficiency of the public schools and to increase interest in agricultural pursuits.

Mr. May was united in marriage with Curley E. McChristy, born in Hopewell township, a daughter of Moses and Elizabeth (Davis) McChristy, the former of whom is deceased. Mrs. McChristy still resides in this township. Mr. and Mrs. May have five children, namely: Myrtle E., who is the wife of Tony Hinton, of Liberty township; Nora M., who is the wife of William Laudahn, of Liberty township; Ina L., and Susanna E. and Laura L.

Politically Mr. May is a Democrat and is influential in his party in this section. He has frequently served as school director of his district, and in the spring of 1906 was nominated for the office of infirmary director of Mercer County, to which he was elected in the following November. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias lodge at Rockford.

EMMET F. CARPENTER

Emmet F. Carpenter, a prominent farmer and stock-raiser of Hopewell township, residing on his well-cultivated farm of 239½ acres, situated in section 22, was born in Center township, Mercer County, Ohio, December 30, 1857, and is a son of Noah and Rachel (Berry) Carpenter.

Noah Carpenter was born in Hocking County, his wife in Fairfield County, Ohio. They were early settlers in Center township, Mercer County, locating about 1849, before the forests had been laid low and when but few settlers had established homes there. They were representative pioneers and

lived long and worthy lives, passing away honored and esteemed by their contemporaries.

Emmet F. Carpenter was about 10 years old when he was left motherless and by the time he was 13 years of age he was thrown entirely upon his own resources. In his boyhood he attended the district schools, and later, through his own efforts, enjoyed a season at the Ohio Normal University at Ada, Ohio. His business in life has been entirely of an agricultural nature and he has been located on his present farm since the fall of 1886.

On April 4, 1886, Mr. Carpenter was married to Margaret Hellwarth, a daughter of John Hellwarth, of Hopewell township, and they have five children, named as follows: Quincy Grover, Domer S., Raymond N., Jeremiah B. and Jesse McKinley. In his political views Mr. Carpenter is a Democrat. With his family he belongs to the Evangelical Church.

WILLIAM A. ORR

William A. Orr, who is one of the leading farmers and stock-raisers of Hopewell township, residing on his excellent farm of 160 acres situated in section 13, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, October 17, 1847, and is a son of Jackson and Rebecca (Baker) Orr.

The Orr family is of Scotch-Irish extraction. The Baker family originated in Germany. Jackson Orr was born in Hocking County, Ohio, and his wife in Washington County, Maryland. They were very early settlers in Fairfield County, locating there when little clearing had been done and Indians were still often encountered. In 1849 Jackson Orr and family removed to Mercer County, where they again found pioneer conditions, and settled a second time in the woods, their home being a log cabin and their nearest neighbors many miles away. They lived in Hopewell township until 1869, when they removed to Celina, where Jackson Orr died in the same year, and was survived by his widow until 1896. In their passing this section lost two of its most estimable people, who were true pioneers, hospitable, thrifty and worthy of remembrance. They were among the founders of the Methodist Episcopal Church in their neighborhood. Of their six children, the following five survive: Sarah F., a resident of Van Wert, Ohio, who is the widow of William H. Brookhart, formerly of Kenton, Ohio; William A.; George, who resides in Mercer County; John, who resides at Wabash; Samaria, deceased; and Albert, who resides at Cincinnati.

William A. Orr was reared and educated in Hopewell township, where his life has been passed, engaged in agricultural pursuits. At one time he

engaged quite extensively in the buying and selling of cattle and other stock and was well known in the business. Politically he is a Republican.

On November 13, 1870, Mr. Orr was married to Sarah M. Petrie, born in Jefferson township, Mercer County, Ohio, on May 13, 1853, a daughter of George and Sarah (Wilds) Petrie. Her mother was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, and died in 1862. The father was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and long was a resident of Jefferson township, Mercer County, where he settled as a pioneer n 1842. He was one of the trustees of the township and later was a member of the Board of Infirmary Directors. In his 87th year, he now resides at Celina, one of the most venerable men in the county. He has been twice married and the children who survive are as follows: William, of Jefferson township; Mary, widow of William Houser, of Celina, now residing at Los Angeles, California; John B., of Celina; Sarah A.; Joseph C., of Mercer County; Thomas E., of Marion, Indiana; Broad F., of Utah; and George A., of Celina.

Mr. and Mrs. Orr have had six children, namely: Edward S., residing at Celina; Frank F., residing in Hopewell township; Charles E., a successful teacher at Celina; Mary B., wife of Charles F. Raach, residing at Canton, Ohio; and Lela M., at home. Mrs. Orr is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

JAMES Z. MOTT

James Z. Mott, a representative farmer of Gibson township, owner of 174 acres of excellent farming land in sections 27, 34 and 35, was born July 12, 1841, in what was then Darke but is now included in Gibson township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Abraham and Abigail (Coates) Mott.

Mr. Mott was reared on his father's farm and agriculture has always had more attractions for him than ony other occupation. He was only 19 years of age when he answered the call for defenders of the country in the days of the war between the North and the South, enlisting as a private, on November 3, 1861, in Company K, 40th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., contracting to serve three years. He faithfully fulfilled this contract and in doing so he endured many hardships, fought many battles and suffered from the enemy's bullet on one occasion, being shot in the left ear. He participated in the battles of Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Atlanta, Nashville and innumerable smaller engagements, and after the expiration of his first term he reenlisted, in 1864, at Shellmound, Georgia, and was finally discharged at Victoria, Texas. He was mustered out with the rank of commissary sergeant, on November 3, 1865.

After his return from the army, he resumed his duties on his father's

farm, where he continued until his marriage in the following year, when he settled on his present farm, which he had partly purchased while in the army. His first purchase was an 80-acre timber tract, in the midst of which he erected a log house. Later a commodious frame dwelling took its place and barns and other necessary outbuildings were constructed. He carries on general farming and is ranked with the substantial men of his neighborhood.

On November 28, 1866, Mr. Mott was married to Elizabeth Grant, who was born in Darke County, Ohio, about five miles from the present home. She is a daughter of Alexander and Margaret (Reprogle) Grant. Her grandfather, Alexander Grant, was one of the earliest settlers in this locality. He entered this land from the government and at one time owned 1,100 acres. Mr. and Mrs. Mott have had six children, namely: Henry Silas, who was reared and well educated in Gibson township, married Harriet Bond, and died in 1896, aged 28 years, leaving one son—Edward Silas; Clarence, who resides at home; Annie Viola, deceased at the age of three years; George Marion, who lives at home; Lenuel, who died aged 17 years; and Harry, who married Mary Tillie Miller, has one son, Walter, and resides in Indiana.

Mr. Mott has been a prominent man in his township for many years, taking an active part in educational and other movements and for a long period serving as a member of the Board of Education, of which he is now president He is a leading member of the German Baptist Church. In any gathering Mr. Mott would attract attention on account of his fine physical appearance, his army height, when but 19 years of age, having been 6 feet 3½ inches. In politics he is a Republican.

HON. FRANCIS C. LeBLOND

The late Francis C. LeBlond was the oldest member of the bar at Celina at his death, and formerly represented the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio in the halls of Congress. He was a man of great mental capacity and his fellow-citizens greatly profited through his devotion to their interests. He was born in Knox County, Ohio, February 12, 1821, and was a son of Evera C. and Elizabeth (Holderman) LeBlond.

The father of Mr. LeBlond was born at Paris, France, on May 22, 1789, and came to America in order to avoid being pressed into military service. He died at Belleville, Ohio, January 16, 1851. His wife, Elizabeth Holderman, who came of German ancestry, was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in 1793, and died in 1861.

Francis C. LeBlond was mainly educated at Norwalk, Ohio, where he was under the instruction of Bishop Edward M. Thompson, of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In the fall of 1843 he was admitted to the bar, and in

December of that year located at St. Marys, Ohio, where he remained several months and then removed to Celina, which city remained the scene of his many legal triumphs until the close of his life. Here, for years, esteem, respect, admiration and affection waited upon his footsteps and here he will remain enshrined among the city's most notable men.

A man of his ability could not keep out of politics, and Democratic principles were the ones for which he was ready to do battle. His first office was that of prosecuting attorney, to which he was elected in the fall of 1847 and reelected in 1849. In 1851 he was elected to the Lower House of the General Assembly of Ohio, in 1853 was returned and was honored especially by being chosen Speaker of the House. During this term Mr. LeBlond took a very prominent part in the proceedings and he was once heard to declare that the passage of the present school laws, which was a measure under his charge, gave him more genuine pleasure than any of the many honors which came to him later. In 1856 he was the Democratic candidate for common pleas judge, but was defeated by Alexander S. Latty.

In 1862 he was first elected to Congress from the Fifth Congressional District, and was reelected in 1864; during the long period which covered this term of public service, he proved his capacity on hundreds of occasions. It was during his second term that a very noted incident occurred in connection with Mr. LeBlond's attitude in regard to the reconstruction measures introduced in 1866. He made speeches on this subject which were so forcible, so convincing and so truly democratic that from that time on he was recognized as the leader of the party on the floor of the House of Representatives. It was during the rather heated discussion of this matter that Mr. LeBlond made a sarcastic speech which rang all over the country, which brought deserved criticism and reproach on the opponents of the bill, some of whom were caricatured in the leading newspapers.

In 1868 Mr. LeBlond was selected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention held in New York city, which nominated Horatio Seymour, Governor of New York, for the Presidency; and again, in 1876, he was a delegate from the Fifth Congressional District, to the convention of that year which met at St. Louis and nominated Samuel J. Tilden for President. Although for years out of active politics, he always remained interested and his political friends all over the land were very often personal ones as well. During his long term of law practice he stood at the head of the bar of Mercer County.

On September 6, 1853, Mr. LeBlond was married at St. Marys, Ohio, to Louisa E. McGinley, and they had these children: Charles M., a prominent attorney at Hilo, Hawaiian Islands, formerly a member of the State Legislature, from Mercer County; Emma L., the wife of Ex-Auditor Charles

HON. A. P. J. SNYDER

A. Kloeb, now State inspector of public offices; and Frank C., who is now a resident of San Francisco, California. Both Mrs. LeBlond and Mr. and Mrs. Kloeb have homes on North Main street, Celina.

HON. A. P. J. SNYDER.

In the death of Hon. A. P. J. Snyder, which occurred November 15, 1901, at Celina, Mercer County lost one of her most devoted and efficient citizens and justly honored men. For 50 years he was at the head of the Mercer County *Standard,* and for a half century the hundreds of readers of this journal were influenced through his facile pen and imbued with ideas which led to the highest type of citizenship.

A. P. J. Snyder was born in Bellefontaine, Ohio, June 24, 1828, and was a son of Henry and Sarah (Smith) Snyder. The father was a native of Hagerstown, Maryland, and was a soldier in the army which defended St. Marys, and Fort Defiance, in the War of 1812.

Until he was 17 years of age, Mr. Snyder attended the common schools at Bellefontaine, excellent ones for their time, and then became an apprentice to the printing business in the office of the Ohio *Censor,* at Bellefontaine. After three years there he worked on the Champaign *Democrat* at Urbana, the *Banner* at West Liberty and the *Gazette* of his native city. On March 17, 1851, Mr. Snyder came to Celina and at once entered the office of the *Western Standard,* which was then owned by Judge William L. Blocher, in connection with S. S. Snyder, brother of A. P. J. Snyder. Three years later the subject of this sketch bought Judge Blocher's interest and the two brothers continued the business together until 1865, when they sold out to D. J. Callen.

Mr. Snyder, however, had been a newspaper man too long to take any absorbing interest in anything else and within 18 months he purchased the Mercer County *Standard,* with which his name and personality were identified for a half century. He belonged heart and soul to the Democratic party and in supporting its principles his voice and pen left no uncertainty. Although not a seeker for office, when he felt it his duty to accept political responsibilities he did so, and with fidelity and honor represented his constituents. In 1859 he was elected by the Democratic party to the Legislature and was returned for a second term. He also served as a member of the Celina Village Council.

Mr. Snyder was married on February 22, 1859, to Susan E. Slicer, of Bellefontaine, Ohio. Seven children were born to this marriage, the survivors being: Elizabeth, wife of Charles A. McKim, postmaster of Celina; Mrs. A. W. Fishbaugh, Cora, and Frank A., who is the business manager of the *Standard.* To his family the death of the beloved father who had also

been friend, counselor and guide, was an almost insupportable blow and his memory will always be tenderly cherished by those who knew him best.

Mr. Snyder, while devoted to his journalistic work, took a deep interest in all that promised to develop and help Celina and this section. He invested money in a number of its enterprises and, through faithful representation in his columns of the advantages of this section, brought thousands of dollars of capital to this part of Ohio.

Mr. Snyder was a charter member of the Masonic lodge and chapter at Celina and in 1887 he was made a Knight Templar in Shawnee Commandery at Lima. It was according to his expressed wish, made at this time, that his funeral obsequies were in charge of his beloved fraternity of which he was so honored a member. A portrait of Mr. Snyder accompanies this sketch.

JAMES C. SNYDER

James C. Snyder, a very well-known citizen and leading stockman of Mercer County, in association with his son, LeRoy Snyder, owns 230 acres of the best farming land in Washington township, consisting of 150 acres in the home farm in section 13, and 80 acres in section 23. He was born at Lewisburg, Preble County, Ohio, March 9, 1846, and is a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Homan) Snyder.

The father of our subject was born in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, and was a son of Peter Snyder, who came to West Baltimore, Montgomery County, Ohio, when his son Joseph was 10 years of age and settled on land, which is now the site of the thriving town of West Baltimore. When he was 12 years old, Joseph Snyder was apprenticed to a blacksmith who had a shop and forge at Lewisburg, and married in that place and continued to work there at his trade until his son James was four years old and then moved to West Baltimore, Ohio, where he opened a shop and worked four years. He then sold his shop and worked as a journeyman blacksmith for several years. About 1858, he bought a farm of 220 acres in Wells County, Indiana, which was still in its virgin state and heavily timbered. This farm was mainly cleared through his own exertions as in a few years he was deprived of the assistance of James, who was the eldest son, the military spirit having carried the boy away from the farm and into the army.

During the absence of James C. Snyder in the army, his father sold the farm in Indiana, and returned to Montgomery County, Ohio, where he subsequently bought two pieces of land near West Baltimore. He was the owner of this land, however, but a short time, selling it and moving to Palestine, Darke County, Ohio, where he bought a saw mill and engaged in sawing lum-

ber for many years. Finally he purchased a farm adjoining the corporate limits of Palestine, where he spent some years farming and dealing in horses. His death occurred while he was living near Lynn, Indiana.

Joseph Snyder was married (first) to Elizabeth Homan, a daughter of Peter Homan, who was a shoemaker by trade. Mrs. Snyder died in 1874, the mother of seven children. Mr. Snyder was married (second) to Rebecca Howard, of Greenville, Ohio, and they had two children. His death took place on March 14, 1899, at the age of 74 years, 3 months and 8 days.

Before our subject's years had extended over boyhood, he had won permission to become a soldier and was wearing the army blue. In appearance he was a well-developed youth, but his age was between 15 and 16 years and his weight was but 94 pounds, when he succeeded, on August 6, 1863, in securing the enrollment of his name as a soldier in the Union ranks. To the credit of the colonel of the Seventh Regiment, Indiana Vol. Cav., be it stated that he opposed the admission of the youthful recruit, but the latter's fine horsemanship finally won his consent. A difficulty arose about a uniform as none could be found small enough, but young Snyder devised expedients such as filling his hat partly with paper and turning up his sleeves and making a few rolls in his pants, so that he was presentable at roll-call. In looking over the records of the Seventh Indiana of that period, there seems to be no mention of the failure of this determined young soldier in any part of his hard duty; on the other hand there is proof that he gallantly bore a part in the battles of Okolona, Guntown, Port Gibson, Grand Gulf, Verona, Egypt, Natchez River, Hurricane Creek and Oxford, Mississippi; Independence, Big Blue and Little Osage, Missouri; Raleigh and Bolivar, Tennessee; Mine Creek, Kansas; and Bastrop, Louisiana. He came through this particularly hard campaign without injury, and, with the exception of about 30 days of illness when he was kept in a hospital at Memphis, Tennessee, he was never absent from his regiment. His work was also of a dangerous character, as he was frequently employed in the carrying of special messages. On several occasions, when he had to pass right through the enemy's lines, only his excellent horsemanship and his tact and ingenuity saved him from capture and the army disaster, which would have resulted had his dispatches fallen into the wrong hands. On one occasion, with two comrades, he carried dispatches 100 miles. That his services were not unappreciated may be proved by the presentation of a document which speaks for itself. It is as follows:

HEADQUARTERS 7TH IND. CAV., LA GRANGE, TENN., May 23, 1865.

Issued to Corporal James C. Snyder, as a tribute of respect to his qualities as a soldier, whose bravery, courage and dash won for him the respect of the officers and his comrades at arms in the engagements at Okolona, Tishomingo and Hurricane Creek.

(Signed) LEROY WOODS, 1st lieutenant, Company E.

Corporal Snyder was honorably discharged, by special order No. 4, on September 19, 1865, at Hempstead, Texas.

Upon his return from army service, Mr. Snyder went to his father's home in Darke County, where he lived until his marriage in 1866, when he settled for several years near Palestine and then moved to Washington township, Mercer County. Here Mr. Snyder bought a mill property and operated a sawmill for several years, doing a large amount of business. He then decided to resume farming and returned to Darke County, where he lived some five years, after which he went back to Washington township, repurchased the sawmill and continued to operate it for some five years. During this interval he had purchased 160 acres of farm land, this being his present home property. A hamlet was forming in the neighborhood at this time, and Mr. Snyder sold 10 acres of his farm, on which tract the town of Erastus now stands. The purchase of this land was consummated by Mr. Snyder on August 21, 1880. On account of a noble grove of walnut trees, he gave his property the name of "Walnut Grove Farm"; since he has entered so largely into the stock business, it is known as the "Walnut Grove Stock Farm." It is situated just north and adjoining the village of Erastus. In partnership with his son, who is also a very capable business man, Mr. Snyder is largely interested in raising fine trotting horses. At present the firm owns 40 head of magnificent animals. They have a half-mile race track on the farm on which the horses are tried from colts. Mr. Snyder has one of the best equipped modern barns in this part of the State, having erected it especially with the training and care of his horses in view. In dimensions it is 100 feet east and west and 80 feet north and south, built with an ell. There are 20 box stalls and accommodations for 50 head of horses. Other necessary buildings and sheds are kept in fine sanitary condition, it being Mr. Snyder's policy to treat his horses in a way most beneficial in order to reap the best results. An office with clerk in attendance is also on the place.

The comfortable farm home, also erected by Mr. Snyder, stands some 100 yards back from the highway in the beautiful walnut grove mentioned.

On August 7, 1866, Mr. Snyder was married to Signorette Wilcox, a daughter of James Wilcox, and they have three children, namely: Flora, who is the wife of Orville S. Ashcraft, a trustee of Washington township, who operates our subject's 80-acre farm; Vernie, who is the wife of LeRoy Kester, and resides on the home farm of Mr. Snyder; and LeRoy, who is associated with his father in the stock business.

Formerly Mr. Snyder was interested in some of the business enterprises, outside of his own, in his vicinity, and for some five years was part owner of the tile mill at Erastus. With his family, Mr. Snyder belongs to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

JOSEPH HINDERS

Joseph Hinders, retiring sheriff of Mercer County, who has served two terms in this important office, during which he has enjoyed the confidence of reputable citizens and inspired the lawless with healthy fear, was born in Marion township, Mercer County, Ohio, January 26, 1855. His parents were Gerhardt and Maria (Hagemann) Hinders.

The Hinders family is of German extraction. The father was an old settler in Mercer County, where he became a large farmer and comfortably reared his family of 13 children. He died January 18, 1898.

Joseph Hinders was reared in his native neighborhood and was educated in the common schools. When he reached young manhood he engaged in farming with his father for a time and then learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed many years.

Mr. Hinders was married to Addie Bechtel, a daughter of Nicholas Bechtel. They have had seven children, three of whom still survive, as follows: Urban G., Elvira E. and Homer J. Those deceased are: Helen Ursula, Arthur William, Mary Elizabeth and Florence Mary.

Mr. Hinders has been a life-long Democrat and for many years has taken an active interest in public matters. In 1902 he was first elected to the office of sheriff, and in 1904 he was reelected, by a majority of 500 votes. With his family he belongs to the Catholic Church.

ROY JENKINS

Roy Jenkins, a prominent agriculturist of Liberty township, owning an 80-acre productive farm, is the junior member of the firm of Vore & Jenkins, which owns and operates a successful industry known as the Sweet Corn Evaporating Company. Mr. Jenkins was born on his father's farm in Liberty township, Mercer County, Ohio, April 24, 1879, and is a son of William and Zaney (Wilson) Jenkins.

William Jenkins was born in Franklin County, Ohio, October 4, 1851, and is a son of Newman and Maria (Weekly) Jenkins, who were natives of Virginia. When three years of age, his parents came to Ohio and were among the early settlers of Liberty township, Mercer County, where he was reared. On April 12, 1874, he married Zaney Wilson, who was born in West Virginia, June 29, 1853, and is a daughter of Dr. Stephen Wilson, who was one of the pioneer physicians of Liberty township, to which he came during Mrs. Jenkin's girlhood. William Jenkins and family resided on his farm in section

27, Liberty township until the spring of 1894, when they removed to Celina, since which time they have lived at No. 113 Logan street.

Roy Jenkins was reared through boyhood in Liberty township, and after completing the public school course there, spent one year in the Celina High School and one and one-half years in the Tri-State Normal School, at Angola, Indiana. He then engaged for a time in teaching and had charge of both the grammar and high schools of Wabash, Ohio, for some three years.

In 1902, Mr. Jenkins became associated with his present partner, Mr. Vore, purchasing a half-interest, in the successful industry known as the Sweet Corn Evaporating Company, which plant is located in section 35, Liberty township. The business is the evaporation of sweet corn and up to the present time enough choice corn has been obtained in Liberty township, some of it from Mr. Jenkins's own farm, to keep the factory running, with a force of from 15 to 18 employees. The finished product is marketed in 70-pound sacks and is shipped to all neighboring towns and to Chicago, where there is a steady and increasing demand. The business is a prosperous one and the methods by which this grain is prepared for consumption are so far superior to any other accepted way of preserving it, that its use is sure to extend. Mr. Vore, the senior partner, resides at Ludlow Falls, Miami County, Ohio, but Mr. Jenkins lives near the manufacturing plant in Liberty township. He is a young man of business capacity and in addition to managing the industry indicated, operates a farm on which he produced 1,000 bushels of wheat, in 1906.

On June 24, 1901, Mr. Jenkins was married to Mabel Vore, who was born in Miami County, Ohio, and died May 14, 1906, leaving a little daughter, Lulu. Mr. Jenkins is a member of the Christian Church.

In politics he is identified with the Democratic party. Fraternally he is an Odd Fellow. His standing among his fellow-citizens is that of an enterprising, able and upright man.

LEWIS M. KRANER

Lewis M. Kraner, a well-known agriculturist and prominent citizen of Hopewell township, president of the Mercer County Mutual Telephone Company, resides on a well-cultivated farm of 80 acres, located in section 23, on which he has placed excellent improvements. Mr. Kraner was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, May 10, 1860, and is a son of William H. and Sophia (Crider) Kraner.

Michael Kraner, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Maryland and located in Fairfield County, Ohio, as one of the early settlers. His

parents came to America from Germany. Both parents of Lewis M. Kraner were natives of Ohio and the father was born in 1832 in Fairfield County, where he still resides.

Lewis M. Kraner was reared in Fairfield County and obtained his education in the local schools and subsequently at Reynoldsburg and Carroll, Ohio. He then taught school for a short time and also learned telegraphing. It was while he was an operator for the Toledo & Ohio Central Railroad, that he first became interested in electricity. His studies led him finally into the telephone business and it was mainly through his instrumentality that the excellent telephone system of the Mercer County Mutual Telephone Company was introduced, bringing into this agricultural community so many conveniences, which have almost become necessities. Ever since the company was organized in 1893, Mr. Kraner has been its president and practically its manager. He has invented a number of electrical devices in connection with telephones and gives much attention to the study of electricity. Formerly he engaged rather extensively in the raising of registered stock, but latterly his time has been mainly taken up with the work of the telephone system, although he carries on general farming as before. He is also in great demand among his neighbors as an auctioneer and cries many sales each year.

In February, 1889, Mr. Kraner was married to Effie D. Klinger, of Mercer County, who is a daughter of the late George W. and Melinda (Patten) Klinger. Her parents, who were natives of Hocking County, Ohio, were among the earliest settlers of Hopewell township, Mercer County.

Mr. Kraner is an active member of the Democratic party. He served six years as a justice of the peace in Hopewell township, and served for two terms as clerk of Violet township, in Fairfield County. Few citizens have a wider acquaintance in the two counties. In every essential respect, he is a self-made man and the success which has come to him has been the direct result of his own efforts. He enjoys the confidence and esteem of his fellow-citizens and has a wide circle of warm, personal friends.

HON. STEPHEN A. ARMSTRONG

Hon. Stephen A. Armstrong, now serving his second term as judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Mercer County, was formerly the senior member of the prominent law firm of Armstrong & Johnson, at Celina. He was born December 18, 1848, at Montezuma, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of William and Martha (Livingston) Armstrong.

The father of Judge Armstrong was born in Ireland and came of Scotch-Irish ancestry. His mother, born in 1812, a native of Dublin, Ireland, was of

English extraction. In 1832 William Armstrong and wife came to America and joined relatives already well established at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The father of Judge Armstrong was a skilled machinist. After working as such in Philadelphia, he removed to the vicinity of Montreal, Canada, where he lived until 1847, when he came to the rapidly growing village of Montezuma, in Mercer County, Ohio. The family was visited here by heavy calamity, four sons dying in one month in 1849, from an epidemic of scarlet fever, and in March, 1850, the father died and the bereaved widow was left with the care of three surviving children, our subject being then an infant. To her wisdom and good management, Stephen A. Armstrong attributes much of his success in life. She was a woman of intellectual capacity and when she found herself left with but little capital and the care of three small children, she became a teacher and not only succeeded in rearing her little ones to honorable maturity but educated them as well. This devoted mother passed out of life on December 13, 1857.

Stephen A. Armstrong attended the schools of Montezuma and Celina, his mother having removed to the latter place in 1852. Prior to completing his education he served three years in a printing office at Celina, after which he successfully passed through the Celina High School. Naturally taking up teaching as a profession, he taught four terms in Mercer County and was then appointed superintendent of the schools of Celina, in which position he served with efficiency for one year, resigning in order to enter the University of Michigan, for which he had prepared himself. For five years prior to this he had been reading law as his duties permitted, and in 1873 he was graduated from the law department, at Ann Arbor, with his degree of LL. B. In April of the same year he was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the State of Michigan, then sitting at Detroit, and shortly afterward was admitted to practice in the State and Federal courts of Ohio. On July 7, 1873, he located at Celina and here he has been one of the leading members of the bar for years. In the fall of 1875 he was elected prosecuting attorney of Mercer County, and was reelected two years later.

In 1898 Stephen A. Armstrong was elected to the common pleas bench, an honor justified by the eminent position he had held as attorney. Five years later he was reelected. He possesses all the qualifications demanded in his judicial position and occupies a high place among the jurists of Ohio.

On December 28, 1870, Judge Armstrong was married to Alice Jane Shipley, a native of Ohio, daughter of Samuel B. Shipley. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong have had seven children, five of whom survive: Russell L., an attorney of Lima, who is a graduate of the Celina schools and the law department of the Ohio State University; Samuel Floyd, who conducts a restaurant at Mendon; Stephen A., Jr., court stenographer of Mercer County; Alice

MR. AND MRS. WASHINGTON SNYDER AND FAMILY

May, living at home, who graduated from the Celina schools, also attended school for a time at Oxford and is a fine musician; and John Richard, who graduated from the Celina schools and is now a student of the law department of the Ohio State University. Russell and Samuel Floyd Armstrong served in the Spanish-American War. Of the two children, deceased, William B. died at the age of 32 years, leaving a widow, Bertha (Keller) Armstrong; and Edward died in infancy.

WASHINGTON SNYDER

Washington Snyder, a substantial farmer of Gibson township, residing on his highly cultivated and well developed farm of 147 acres located in sections No. 15 and 22, was born January 31, 1853, in Gibson township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of James Riley and Lydia (Gilbert) Snyder.

James R. Snyder was born in Virginia, but when quite small was brought to Darke County, Ohio, by his parents, and was reared on a farm near Greenville. About one year after his marriage, he moved to Mercer County, and bought a farm of 130 acres, on which he lived until his death, in March, 1855, being killed by the falling of a beam at a barn raising. His widow survived him until October 2, 1902, being 80 years of age at the time of her death. Mr. and Mrs. James R. Snyder were the parents of five children, as follows: John F.; James R.; William M.; Susannah (Bender); and Washington, our subject.

Washington Snyder was two years old at the time of his father's death. He was reared and educated in Gibson township, and has always been engaged in farming. He lived on the home farm for six years after his marriage until 1882, when he bought and moved upon a 40-acre farm in Gibson township —a part of his present estate. The large frame house which the family occupies was built in the fall of 1882.

Mr. Snyder was married June 20, 1876, to Lucretia A. Clark, a daughter of William Clark. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder have had 12 children: Ellen Isaphene, who married Joseph E. Van Kirk and has had five children, three of whom are now living—Kittie May, Bessie Glenn and Fannie Elizabeth; William Riley, who married Sarah Runkle, lives in Gibson township and has one daughter—Sarah Elizabeth; Wellington Wiley, who is married and lives in Darke County, Ohio; and John Marshall, Charlie Glenn, Fannie E., Washington Roscoe, Don Clark, Louden, Lucretia May, Arlie (deceased at the age of 10 months) and Verne. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder are members of the Church of Christ at Fort Recovery. A group picture of the Snyder family accompanies this sketch.

ANDREW D. GEMMILL, V. S.

Andrew D. Gemmill, V. S., who is well known in his profession over three counties, standing at its head in Mercer County, is a popular citizen of Celina, where he resides. He was born in Huron County, Ontario, Dominion of Canada, March 7, 1865, and is a son of David and Anna (McNichol) Gemmill.

Andrew D. Gemmill was reared on his father's large estate in Canada, where, in the rearing of cattle and stock, he first became interested in his present profession. He was graduated at the University of Clinton, Ontario, in 1887, and for some six years taught school in Canada, following which he entered the veterinary college at Toronto, Canada, where he was graduated in 1892. In the following year he came to Mercer County and established his home at Celina.

On September 15, 1895, Mr. Gemmill was married to Etta Piper, a daughter of George Piper. They have one son, Aleck G., born May 10, 1899. Mr. Gemmill is an ardent Democrat and, being well known and popular, exerts a wide influence in party affairs. The family belong to St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church.

EDWARD W. BERTKE

Edward W. Bertke, a progressive farmer of Franklin township, who resides on his farm of 80 acres located in section 35, was born June 7, 1870, on a farm in German township, Auglaize County, Ohio, and is a son of Rudolph and Caroline (Bakemiller) Bertke.

Rudolph Bertke was born in Germany, where he was reared, educated and first married. When he came to this country, he settled on a farm in Auglaize County, Ohio, and now lives retired at New Bremen. He had two children by his first marriage: Henry, a resident of St. Marys, who married Mary Ahlers and owns a farm across the road from that of Edward W.; and Caroline, who married Gus Dickie and lives on a farm near St. Marys. His first wife died and he married Caroline Bakemiller, a native of Germany, who came to America and joined a sister at New Bremen, Ohio. There were 12 children born to this marriage, namely: Louise, who married Henry Brockman; George, who married Minnie Rump, and was accidentally killed while out hunting; Fred, who married Martha Heshfelt; John, who married Elizabeth Neddermann; Edward W.; Emma, who married Julius Ahlers—both now deceased; Augustus, who married Ida Kenning; Ellen unmarried, who lives at New Bremen with her father; Rose, Martin and two infants, deceased.

Edward W. Bertke was reared on his father's farm in German township, Auglaize County, and has always been engaged in farming. Prior to his marriage he rented his father's farm in Franklin township for two years, at the end of which time he purchased it, and has been engaged in operating it ever since. Mr. Bertke was united in marriage to Sophia Neddermann, daughter of William and Minnie (Nemeyer) Neddermann, and they have two children: Emma, born March 26, 1901, and Ada, born September 14, 1902. The parents of Mrs. Bertke were both born and reared in German township, Auglaize County, Ohio. They had seven children, as follows: Sophia, born July 19, 1877; William, who married Flora Witte; Elizabeth, who married John Bertke, a brother of Edward W.; and Fred, Leo, Lafe and Edward, all of whom are living on the home farm in German township. Mr. and Mrs. Bertke are members of the Lutheran Church at New Bremen.

ISAAC NEWTON KEYSER

Isaac Newton Keyser, an enterprising farmer of Center township, well known throughout the county, was born June 8, 1849, in this township on a farm adjoining his present farm on the west. He is a son of Jesse and Martha (Yost) Keyser, and a grandson of Jacob and Rebecca Keyser, of Pennsylvania.

Jesse Keyser was born in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. He later moved to Miami County, Ohio, and in 1837 located in Mercer County, being the first of the Keyser family to locate in this county. He bought and cleared a tract of land and built a round-log cabin, later building a cabin of hewed logs. In time the latter was replaced by a frame house and this in turn by a brick residence. He died August 29, 1895, aged 79 years, 2 months and 13 days. Jesse Keyser's wife, Martha Yost, was a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of Eli and Susan (Hendricks) Yost. She died September 11, 1892, aged 73 years and 13 days. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Keyser, namely: Audora, Samaria, Sarah, Frances and Josiah (twins), Susan, Isaac Newton (our subject), Amanda and Celina. Audora married Daniel Fast and with him moved to Nebraska, where her death occurred. Samaria, deceased, was the wife of J. C. Journey, now a resident of Page County, Iowa. Sarah married J. G. Fast and lives at Rockford. Frances married Philip Fast, of Center township. Josiah, whose death occurred July 7, 1895, at the age of 51 years, 3 months and 2 days, was married in 1865 to Margaret Wright, to which union seven children were born; his widow is now a resident of Indianapolis, Indiana. Susan, who lives at Danville, Illinois, is

the widow of W. M. Wright. Amanda married R. G. Baker and lives at Celina. Celina, who married Silas Harner, died January 7, 1893.

Isaac N. Keyser was reared on his father's farm in Center township and was engaged in farming the place for his father until after the death of the latter. For the past 10 years he has been on his present 120-acre farm, which he owns and has followed general farming and stock-raising. He also followed the trade of plasterer for some time, while still carrying on his agricultural operations. He built his present residence—a fine eight-room brick house, the main part being 16 by 34 feet in dimensions, while the two wings are 15 by 18 feet and 16 by 16 feet in size, respectively.

Mr. Keyser was married December 3, 1871, to Jennie Welch, a native of Kentucky and a daughter of John and Catherine Welch, both natives of Ireland. To this union have been born five children, as follows: Eva, living in Center township three miles northeast of her father's place, who married Isaac Snavely and has three children—Stephen, Glenn and an infant; Myrtle, living at Chicago, Illinois, who is the wife of Walter Stanbery and the mother of one child, Kenneth; Kintz, who married William Roebuck and is now living at Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Elza and Bonnie, who live at home with their parents.

Mr. Keyser is a Democrat and active in local affairs. He has served as supervisor, was township trustee for 15 years and was a member of the School Board for 18 years. For six years he served on the Board of Infirmary Directors. The Town Hall at Mendon, built jointly by the township and Mendon village, and the new public school building at Mendon were erected while he was township trustee and a member of the School Board. Although there was a hard fight to get these buildings, they are a credit to the community and the people are now proud of them.

SYLVESTER H. WEAVER

Sylvester H. Weaver, the capable superintendent of the Mercer County Infirmary, has been a resident of Mercer County for the past 30 years. He was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, August 18, 1849, and is a son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Crider) Weaver.

Daniel Weaver was also born in Fairfield County, but later removed to Mercer County and resides on a farm in Hopewell township. He is the father of 10 children, a number of whom are settled in this part of Ohio.

Sylvester H. Weaver was reared in Fairfield County and obtained his education in the district schools in the neighborhood of his home. Instead of becoming a farmer, he turned his attention to carpentering and followed his

trade both in Fairfield and Mercer counties for 37 years, up to 1903, when he was appointed to the office of superintendent of the Infirmary. During the three years of his incumbency, Mr. Weaver has given excellent satisfaction and the affairs at the county farm were never in better shape. He has proven himself a capable executive officer and a kind, humane man.

Mr. Weaver married Anna Wagner, a daughter of Jacob Wagner, of Fairfield County, and they have six children, as follows: Charles A., a resident of Hopewell township, who married Cora Hainline and has one child, Myrtle; Irena May, who married Hiley Hinton, a farmer of Union township, and has one child, Sylvester Roy; Clara E., who married John Klinger, of Celina, and has one child, Lela Blanch; Bertha Belle, who married Albert Johnson and resides at Celina; and Lettie Elnora and Grace Almina. Politically, Mr. Weaver is affiliated with the Democratic party.

ARLINGTON STEPHENSON, M. D.

Arlington Stephenson, M. D., a medical practitioner of Celina, was born at Syracuse, New York, September 11, 1853, and is a son of Thomas and Sarah (Wilson) Stephenson. Thomas Stephenson was born in Sussex, England, and died at Syracuse, New York, where he had been engaged in a mercantile business. After his death his widow and son made their home at Cincinnati, Ohio.

After completing the public school course at Syracuse, Arlington Stephenson entered Syracuse University, where he was graduated in the literary department, becoming well grounded in the French and German languages. This assisted him when he entered the medical department of Tübingen University, in the principality of Würtemberg, Germany, where he remained two years. Upon his return to the United States, he spent one year in the medical department of the University of Michigan, and one year in the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, graduating from the latter institution. Dr. Stephenson entered into practice at Rochester, New York, in 1882, but one year later came to Mercer County, and located at Fort Recovery, where he won an enviable reputation as a physician and surgeon and enjoyed a remunerative practice throughout the county, which continued uninterrupted until 1905. During two years of this time he conducted a private sanitarium. Upon leaving Fort Recovery he went to San Francisco, California, where he established a private sanitarium for the treatment of nervous diseases. It was equipped with Swedish movement and electric appliances and Turkish baths, which enabled him to employ the latest and most approved methods of treatment. In a few months his reputation was firmly established, but the great

earthquake of April 18, 1906, destroyed his sanitarium and endangered the lives of himself and wife. For several days after the disaster, Dr. Stephenson and wife lived in Golden Gate Park, with hundreds of thousands of others, who had also lost their homes. During this period Dr. Stephenson devoted his attention to emergency work, doing what he could to alleviate the pain and distress of the injured and suffering. As soon as it was possible, he returned to Mercer County, to resume practice among his friends of many years standing, locating at Celina. In his office here he has already installed a fine electrical outfit, a microscope of exceptional quality for use in diagnosis, a nebulizing outfit for treatment of lung and throat diseases, and an electric light bath cabinet.

In 1876 Dr. Stephenson married Ella Taylor, a native of Kentucky, and a daughter of Dr. M. and Lydia J. (Draper) Taylor, the former a surgeon in the Union Army, in the late Civil War. Dr. Taylor died in March, 1906, but his widow survives and is now residing in Portsmouth, Ohio. Six children have been born to Dr. and Mrs. Stephenson, three of whom are still living, namely: Maude, who is a piano instructor in the Radnor Female College at Nashville, Tennessee; Vinnie, who is a nurse in a public hospital at Cincinnati; and Arlie, who is a violinist by profession and leads an orchestra at Oakland, California. Two children died during infancy, and a son, Martin, died at the age of 18 years.

Dr. Stephenson is a Republican in politics. He is a member of the Catholic Church. Professionally he is identified with the Northwestern Ohio and American Medical associations.

JOHN SNAVELY

John Snavely, who is probably one of the most venerable citizens of Liberty township, has been identified with its most important interests for more than 30 years and stands as a fair representative of its best citizenship. Mr. Snavely was born in Wayne County, Ohio, January 1, 1826, and is a son of George and Eliza (Wireman) Snavely.

The Snavely family is of German extraction and it is a numerous and substantial one in Pennsylvania, where our subject's parents were born. The birthplace of the mother was near Gettysburg, the scene of one of the greatest battles of the Civil War.

Mr. Snavely remained in Wayne County, Ohio, until he was 14 years of age and then went to Shippensburg, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, where he was employed in the store of John Gish, with whom he remained several years. Later he was employed in boating on the Miami and Erie Canal, in

Ohio and Indiana. In July, 1863, Mr. Snavely entered the Union Army, enlisting in Company K, 88th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., which became a part of the 14th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland. He was honorably discharged July 3, 1865. During the greater part of this time he was detailed as commissary to the general hospital, at Camp Chase, Columbus, and performed his duties in this position just as faithfully and honorably as if he had been on the field. Since his return he has been a continuous resident of Mercer County. He came to Liberty township as a pioneer settler, when the forest still covered all this section and no roads had been cut through, and he still occupies his comfortable log house, which he built in 1873, in the year following his settlement.

On April 9, 1853, Mr. Snavely was united in marriage with Margaret Rupert, born December 6, 1834, in Mercer County, Ohio, a daughter of George and Lovina (Parrott) Rupert, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Tennessee. The Ruperts were among the earliest settlers of Salem township, Auglaize County, whence they removed to Mercer County and settled in Union township. They were people of worth and standing in pioneer days there and their remains rest in one of the old cemeteries of Union township.

Mr. and Mrs. Snavely have had eight children, as follows: Eliza J., wife of George Coakley, of Hopewell township; Andrew J., of Liberty township; John L., of Liberty township; Philip S., of Hopewell township; Lovina B., wife of William Martz, of Liberty township; George W. and Charles E., both deceased; and a babe that died in infancy.

Mr. Snavely reared his children carefully and gave them many advantages he had never enjoyed. For 13 consecutive years he was a member of the Board of Education in Liberty township, and during 12 years of this time was clerk of the board. Both he and his estimable wife are worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Liberty township, in which he has always been active, serving nine years as superintendent of the Sunday-school and at present is a class leader. His Republicanism reaches back to the candidacy of Gen. John C. Fremont, and he has been in sympathy with the party's aims ever since.

JOHN W. DE FORD

John W. De Ford, president of the Citizens' Banking Company of Celina, of which institution he had been cashier for a quarter of a century before he became its head, was born September 13, 1841, in Carroll County, Ohio, and is a son of John and Matilda (Littell) De Ford.

The De Ford family, as the name indicates, is of French extraction. Dur-

ing the French Revolution, this family, being of importance in France, was compelled to give up its estates and honors and flee from the country. The great-grandparents of our subject, upon reaching America located immediately, it is thought, in Pennsylvania, where they died and were survived by one son, John De Ford, who at that time was but a youth. He was reared on a farm near Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, where he married and where he resided all the rest of his life, reaching the unusual age of 103 years. Many of his descendants have also lived into old age.

John De Ford, the second, the eldest son of John, was born in 1805 in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. His father was a man of substance and afforded him excellent educational advantages, which culminated in a course at Madison College, in Fayette County, where he was prepared carefully for the ministry of the Presbyterian Church. This ambition was, however, denied him as his health failed and he subsequently became an agriculturist. He died in 1892, aged 87 years. In 1828 he married Matilda Littell and they removed to Carroll County, Ohio, where their son John W. was born. In 1848 the father removed to Columbiana County and in 1860, to Mercer County. He resided at Celina for some six years and then returned to Carroll County, where his last days were spent. His wife died aged 80 years, in January, 1893.

John W. De Ford, the immediate subject of this sketch, passed from the common schools into Mount Union College, where he studied three terms and there completed his education. He then began to teach school and by the time he had completed six terms in the different townships of the county, he had attracted enough favorable attention to be elected superintendent of the schools of Fort Recovery, a position he held for five years. In 1863 he was appointed school examiner for Mercer County, a position he filled with efficiency for six years. In 1866 Mr. De Ford was elected by the Democratic party to the office of clerk of the Court of Common Pleas and served for six years as such. During all this period he had been engaged in the reading of the law, as opportunity afforded, and in 1872 he was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the State of Ohio.

On May 1, 1873, Mr. De Ford organized the Citizens' Bank of Celina, which in 1897 was incorporated as the Citizens' Banking Company of Celina, After 25 years as cashier of this bank, Mr. De Ford became its president and so continues. The other officers are: S. A. Bowman, vice-president; Henry Lennartz, cashier; and Frank Benke, assistant cashier. The directors are: John W. De Ford, S. A. Bowman, Henry Lennartz, Samuel J. Vining and W. T. Palmer. The officers of this institution are all well-known capitalists and men of irreproachable character. The Citizens' Banking Company has

MR. AND MRS. ABRAHAM MOTT

a capital stock of $50,000 and a surplus of $10,000; the deposits at the present time aggregate over $500,000.

Mr. De Ford has always been one of Celina's most liberal public-spirited men. He has made large donations to charity, has promoted innumerable movements which have contributed to the prosperity of the city and has erected many of the most important buildings, both in the business and residence districts.

Fraternally, Mr. De Ford is a Mason and a Knight of Pythias. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

ABRAHAM MOTT

Abraham Mott, a well-known citizen of Fort Recovery and owner of 240 acres of farm land in Gibson township, was born in Darke County, Ohio, November 1, 1838, and is a son of Abraham and Abigail (Coates) Mott.

Abraham Mott, Sr., a son of Zachariah Mott, was born in Pennsylvania, where he was reared and educated. Upon coming to Ohio, he lived for a time in Warren County and also in Miami County, subsequently settling in what is now Gibson township, Mercer County, but at that time included in Darke County, where he entered 80 acres of land, and later bought 23 acres of land in the same township. The farm on which he located is now owned by his son Abraham. He was married to Abigail Coates, a native of Virginia, who came to Ohio when a young girl with her father, James Coates, who was also a native of Virginia. Abraham Mott, Sr., was the father of 12 children, of whom our subject was the fifth.

Abraham Mott was reared and educated in what is now Gibson township, Mercer County. His father was one of the earliest settlers of the township, locating here in 1835. Mr. Mott remembers the time when the land was all a wilderness and when deer and other wild animals were often seen. Mr. Mott was educated in the district schools but never had more than three months schooling in any one year, being obliged to assist his father in clearing the land and in attending to other necessary farm work during the summer months. In 1863 Mr. Mott enlisted in Company D, 134th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and served one year in the army under General Butler, taking active part in all the regiment's small engagements and skirmishes in Virginia. After returning home from the war, he taught school for 27 years during the winter months and farming during the summer. He also engaged in the threshing business with George Sigler and John Wagoner; together they owned three threshing machines. Mr. Mott moved to his present home in August, 1905, where he has a large frame house situated on a two-acre lot.

Mr. Mott was (first) married to Delilah Wagoner, a sister of one of his partners in the threshing business. She died in 1874, leaving one child, Allen, who lives in Joliet, Illinois, and is a railroad engineer. Mr. Mott was married (second) to Sarah Mahala Travis, who died in 1899, leaving four children: Russell Tilden, who owns and resides on a farm of 164 acres in Darke County; Delphos Elra, who is married and lives on his father's farm; Minnie Ola, who married Daniel Trieschman and lives in Gibson township; Arlie Walter, who is married and lives in Fort Recovery, where he is engaged as a rural mail carrier. Mr. Mott's third marriage was with Mrs. Sarah A. (Moyer) Bobb, widow of John Bobb. Their marriage occurred in April, 1905. Mr. Mott has served his township as clerk and also as trustee. He was for three years county commissioner, his term expiring in 1894. He is a member of the German Baptist Church. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Mott accompany this sketch.

HENRY HONE

Henry Hone, a pioneer of Liberty township and a most highly respected citizen, resides on his finely cultivated farm of 40 acres, situated in section 23, this being a part of the 248 acres which he wrested from the virgin forest. Mr. Hone was born in Auglaize County, Ohio, August 14, 1836, and is a son of David and Elizabeth (Morman) Hone.

The parents of Mr. Hone were early emigrants from Germany. In 1832 they settled in Maryland and came to Auglaize County, Ohio, in 1834. Their lives were spent in that county, and their remains rest in one of the burying-grounds near their old home. They were representative German people, possessed of the thrift and sturdy virtues of that race.

Henry Hone was reared on his father's farm and obtained his education in a little log schoolhouse that was built on a corner of the home estate. His practical father trained him in all the details of farming, and agriculture has been his business through life. His industry and good management caused his accumulation of a large property, at one time aggregating 248 acres. The larger part of this he has given to his children, retaining only 40 acres for his own home. He settled on this farm in 1867, when it was practically a great expanse of heavily timbered land. All the clearing and developing he accomplished himself and the farm as it stands to-day, one of the best in Liberty township, is what he has made it. For many years he resided in the old log house, but in 1900 he erected a more modern residence, into which he has introduced many comforts.

On June 26, 1861, Mr. Hone was united in marriage with Catherine Meyer, who was born in Auglaize County, Ohio, July 31, 1838, and is a

daughter of John and Lenora Meyer, who were born in Germany and who came to Auglaize County as early settlers. Of the 10 children born to our subject and wife, there are eight survivors, as follows: John H., of Liberty township; Frank F., of Hartford City, Indiana; William H. and Christian, of Liberty township; Henry B., of North Dakota; George W., of Liberty township; Catherine, wife of Charles Weitz, of Liberty township; and Andrew J., of Liberty township.

Politically, Mr. Hone is a Democrat. He has always taken an intelligent interest in local matters and as a man of judgment and integrity has been invited on many occasions to accept political office. For 13 consecutive years he served as a trustee of Liberty township, filling the office with satisfaction to his fellow-citizens. Both he and his estimable wife, who remains like himself, vigorous in body and mind, are held in the highest esteem in the community where they have lived so long. They can tell many interesting stories of the early days in this section and of old families contemporary with theirs, some of whom have entirely passed away. They are among the leading members of the Reformed Lutheran Church.

LEWIS A. HALL

Lewis A. Hall, proprietor of a general store and barber shop, at Neptune, was born November 9, 1869, in Mercer County, Ohio. He is a son of Curtis and Caroline (Bonifield) Hall.

Atwater Hall, grandfather of Lewis A. Hall, came to Center township and established the first blacksmith shop in this section of the country. Until his death he lived on a farm which he managed in addition to his blacksmith business.

Curtis Hall, who was 10 years old when his father settled in Center township, subsequently bought out the other heirs, and he lived on the home farm the remainder of his life, his death occurring June 28, 1890, at the age of 64 years. He was a Democrat in politics and served as township trustee, assessor and constable. During the Civil War, he enlisted in the 100-day service, in Company K, 193rd Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and served from 1864 until the close of the war. He married Caroline Bonifield, who was born in what is now the town of Neptune, being a daughter of William Bonifield, the first settler here, who laid out the town and donated the Public Square on which the Township Hall now stands. Mrs. Hall still resides at Neptune. Curtis Hall and wife had 12 children, as follows: Thomas, who died in 1881, aged 23 years; Arabella and Clarabella (twins), the former of whom keeps house for her brother, Lewis A., and the latter of whom died aged about 15

years; Curtis, Jr., who lives at Ingram, Wisconsin; Lillie, who married Dr. J. S. Pierce, of Red Key, Indiana; Milton, who lives at Albany, Indiana; Lewis A.; Alice and Albert (twins), the former of whom married H. O. Mowery and resides two and a half miles east of Celina, and the latter of whom died in infancy; Edith, who married Robert Kinkley, of Mendon; Margaret, who lives at home, and Ada, who married Ivan Hamilton and lives at Celina.

Lewis A. Hall was reared on his father's farm in Center township. He has been in the general merchandise business since 1900, in 1897 establishing a barber shop which he has run continuously ever since, in connection with the store.

Mr. Hall was married (first) to Leona Miller, a daughter of Mrs. Ellen Miller, of Neptune. She died September 12, 1902, leaving three children; Guy C., Mary L. and Harry T. Mr. Hall was married (second) September 7, 1905, to Ada M. Weaver, a native of Celina, and a daughter of Charles and Matilda Weaver. Her death occurred in December of the same year. Politically, Mr. Hall is a stanch Democrat and has served as township clerk and in various minor offices.

HON. ARCHELAUS D. MARSH

In the sudden death of the late Hon. Archelaus D. Marsh, which occurred at Celina, Ohio, on May 26, 1904, Mercer County lost one of her distinguished men. He was the recognized leader of the Democrat party, a prominent member of the bar, and one of the most valued, useful and public-spirited citizens of Celina. The birth of Mr. Marsh took place in Clay township, Highland County, Ohio, on April 19, 1843, and he was the only son of James P. and Ellen J. Marsh.

Mr. Marsh was reared and educated in Highland County. In 1868 he moved to Sardinia, Brown County, Ohio, where he read law under W. W. McKnight and Clinton & White. Late in 1872 he was admitted to the bar at Georgetown, the county seat of Brown County. Prior to this however, in 1869, he was elected by the Democratic party to the office of township clerk, and later he became a justice of the peace, continuing in office for some years. In 1874 he settled permanently at Celina, entering into partnership with John W. Loree, the firm of Marsh & Loree existed continuously for the succeeding 22 years. Business interests and mutual esteem combined to make this one of the strongest law combinations in this city. Mr. Marsh was recognized as an able advocate and made a specialty of the criminal practice, in which he was a very successful lawyer,

but not in any degree did he overlook the large and paying civil and commercial practice that came to his office.

From his year of maturity, Mr. Marsh was devoted, heart and mind, to the Democratic party, thoroughly believing in its principles and willing to struggle to uphold them. From the first he was recognized as a possible future leader, and the predictions of the old war horses of the party, that the time would come when the able young attorney would become an important factor in public affairs came true. He had lived but three years in Mercer County when he was elected to the Ohio Legislature, was returned for a second term in 1879 and returned again in 1883, when he was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. In this position he presided with efficiency and dignity.

The political history of Ohio and the public agitation of the succeeding years may yet be carefully written. A faithful record would tell of the fidelity with which Mr. Marsh served his party and consistently followed in the path of duty. Three times chosen as his party's candidate for Congress, only unusual conditions prevented his election to a position which he would have adorned. Scarcely any man, who for 20 years was prominent in public life, passed off the stage of human affairs with so unsullied a record. Throughout his long and successful career as a lawyer, he never lost the esteem and respect of his fellow members of the bar; they loved and admired the manly traits which he possessed, and the courage he displayed in the prosecution or defense of the cases undertaken by him.

In 1865 Mr. Marsh was united in marriage with Mary J. Thompson, who was born at Sardinia, Brown County, Ohio, and who died in April, 1904. The children of this union were: Clayton L., Clara D., Verna A., Arvesta Lee, Nora B., Clarence E. and Loree L. Clarence E. Marsh, with whom our subject was associated in the practice of law at the time of his death, is one of Celina's leading professional men. He is now serving as prosecuting attorney of Mercer County. Loree L. Marsh, the youngest son, who was elected coroner of Mercer County in November, 1906, is also a young man of great promise.

BENJAMIN PRESTON

Benjamin Preston, whose fine farm of 121 acres is situated in section 22, Franklin township, is one of the representative agriculturists of this part of the county. Mr. Preston was born on the old Preston farm in Franklin township, Mercer County, Ohio, June 9, 1848, and is a son of Isaac and Susan (Hoel) Preston.

Isaac Preston was born in Hamilton County, Ohio, and was a son of William Preston, who was of Scotch-Irish parentage. William Preston was

a blacksmith by trade, but subsequently turned his attention to farming on account of failing eyesight, and became the owner of 700 acres of land in Mercer County. He reared nine children, namely: Isaac, Demaris, Sarah Jane, Margaret, Cynthia, James, Benjamin, William and Ferman, all of whom are deceased with the exception of Sarah Jane, who is the wife of Thomas Green and resides in Shelby County.

Isaac Preston was reared in Hamilton County and there married Susan Hoel. They moved to Mercer County and bought a farm in Franklin township on which they lived for many years before removing to Missouri, where Mr. Preston died at the age of 71 years. His widow still resides in Missouri. They had the following children: Sarah Frances, who married George Circle and lives in Bates County, Missouri; Benjamin; Samuel, who married Sarah Long and lives in Bates County, Missouri; Caroline, who died aged 14 years; George, who married Jane Swartz and lives at Montezuma; and William, who married Ella Brown and lives at Dayton, Ohio.

Benjamin Preston was reared in Franklin township and was educated in the country schools. His whole life has been devoted to farming and naturally he thoroughly understands all the various subjects which it is necessary for a successful agriculturist to comprehend. A part of his land was left to his wife by her father and the rest of it was purchased by Mr. Preston. He raises wheat, corn, oats and hay and some stock. At one time oil was found on his farm and a well was drilled, but it is not now in operation.

On October 30, 1871, Mr. Preston was married to Cassandra Ann Brown, a daughter of Thomas and Lydia (Meeks) Brown, of Clermont County, Ohio. Mrs. Preston died December 8, 1901. She was a devoted wife and loving mother and was a consistent member of the United Brethren Church. Mr. Preston and wife had seven children, the first three dying in infancy. The others are: William Wayne, born April 21, 1873, who was married October 11, 1896, to Leota Watson, daughter of John and Roxanna (Aldridge) Watson, has two children, Bernice and Charles Victor, and resides in Franklin township; Harry F., who was married May 27, 1899, to Caddie Carter, daughter of Jacob and Diana (Gray) Carter, has had three children—Frances Willard (deceased); Leonard Dale and Alta—and lives in Franklin township; Justice Park, an oil driller in Indiana, who married (first) Emma Ellis, and (second) Nella O'Brien, daughter of Henry O'Brien; and Lyman Ward, a worker in the oil fields and a resident of Franklin township, who married Plezzie Colston, daughter of Joseph Colston, and has one child, Elma.

In his younger years Mr. Preston took considerable interest in township affairs and served several years on the School Board and two terms as assessor. He is a leading member of the United Brethren Church.

PERRY C. MILLER

PERRY C. MILLER, a member of the firm of Palmer & Miller, grain dealers of Celina, who own a line of elevators and carry on an extensive commission business in buying and selling grain, was born in Hopewell township, Mercer County, Ohio, in 1869. He is a son of Joseph Miller, who was born in Hopewell township, Mercer County, and is one of the leading citizens of his locality, where he has always lived and been engaged in farming. He was for many years justice of the peace.

Perry C. Miller was reared and educated in his native township, receiving his early education in the public schools, later attending the Ohio Normal School at Ada. Upon completing his school education, Mr. Miller taught school for six years, after which he was engaged in general merchandise business at Tamah, Ohio, for three years. In 1898 Mr. Miller engaged in the grain business, forming a partnership with W. T. Palmer, in which business he has since continued.

In 1904 Mr. Miller was married to Mary V. Sherrick, of Allen County, Ohio. They have two children: Marjery and Emily May. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

JOHN TILTON

JOHN TILTON, a representative citizen of Hopewell township, where he owns a well-improved farm of 120 acres, situated in section 28, is also a survivor of the great Civil War in which he spent three years of young manhood. Mr. Tilton was born January 10, 1841, in Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Sylvester and Catherine (Stephenson) Tilton.

Mr. Tilton's parents were natives of Ohio, and early settlers in Hopewell township. Both died when our subject was but two years of age. Until he was 15 years old his home was with an aunt, Mrs. Elizabeth Hershell, and upon the death of this kind relative, he went to the home of his uncle, Hiram Stephenson, of Hopewell township, with whom he lived until he enlisted, in October, 1861, in Company A, 71st Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf. This regiment became a part of the Army of Tennessee, later of the Army of the Cumberland and still later of the Army of Ohio. It would require a large amount of space to faithfully trace the career of this young soldier, but a fair idea can be obtained of the hardships and dangers through which he passed, when mention is made of Shiloh, the siege and taking of Atlanta, and the battles of Franklin and Nashville. For fully one year he was engaged in the dangerous business of fighting guerrillas and barely escaped with his life on innumerable occasions.

Mr. Tilton was honorably discharged from the service, in November, 1864, at Nashville, Tennessee.

From his return to Hopewell township until the present, Mr. Tilton has been engaged in agricultural pursuits, following farming, threshing and stock-raising. He owns a complete threshing outfit. He is counted as one of the township's best farmers and is one of its substantial citizens.

Mr. Tilton was united in marriage to Sidney Crane, born in Hocking County, Ohio, who accompanied her parents to Mercer County in childhood. Mr. and Mrs. Tilton have had eight children, namely: Edward S., of Jefferson township; Lydia E., wife of William Downey, of Jefferson township; Minnie, wife of Leroy De Hays, of Ashland County, Ohio; Catherine S., widow of Edward Good, of Liberty township; Ruth A., wife of Ellsworth Borell, of Washington township; Charlotte, wife of Earl Schleucher, of Hopewell township; William H. and Martha Syvilla, deceased.

Politically, Mr. Tilton is a Republican and for three successive years he was elected assessor of Hopewell township. He is a valued member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at St. Marys. For many years he has been a consistent member of the Church of God, in which he has been an elder, trustee and deacon, and of which he is at present treasurer. He is a man whose estimable character is recognized by his fellow-citizens, by whom he is respected and esteemed.

ANDY BAUER

Andy Bauer, township clerk, and the owner of a well-improved farm of 40 acres, situated in Liberty township, was born in Liberty township, Mercer County, Ohio, August 4, 1868, and is a son of John and Susan (Koch) Bauer.

John Bauer was born in Prussia, Germany, February 8, 1834. His parents were Michael and Mary (Distler) Bauer, both of Prussian birth. Prior to coming to America, John Bauer attended school in his native land, where he had better advantages than he could have obtained at that time in Liberty township. He reached Ohio in 1852, a well educated young German, and located first in Van Wert County. In 1854 he came to Liberty township, Mercer County, where he was one of the earliest teachers. The pioneers here were mostly Germans and, had he so desired, he could have continued to teach their children for years. His aim, however, was to become a farmer and to own a goodly number of the fertile acres which he saw being developed all around him, and to agricurtural pursuits he has devoted a large portion of his life. He has lived on his valuable farm of 160 acres, in section 15, Liberty township, for almost half a century.

DAVID H. RICHARDSON, M. D.

MRS. MARY L. RICHARDSON

On January 25, 1858, John Bauer was married to Susanna Koch, a daughter of John and Mary Koch, natives of Germany and old Liberty township settlers. Mrs. Bauer's brother, Anton Koch, is a prominent resident of Chattanooga, Mercer County. Mr. and Mrs. Bauer had eight children, and of this number the following six survive: John, residing in the State of Washington; Mary E., wife of Louis Bollenbacher, residing in Liberty township; Catherine, wife of Charles W. Baker, residing in Black Creek township; and Andy, Frederick, and William, all of Liberty township. John Bauer and wife belong to the Evangelical Association and were among the early active members of the church in Liberty township. In politics he is a Democrat.

Andy Bauer was reared by his estimable parents in a home where thrift was taught and precepts of morality were instilled. He assisted on the home farm all through his youth and obtained his education in the schools of his native township. His business has always been along agricultural lines. He has been active in politics and has consistently supported the Democratic party. Mr. Bauer is a well-informed man and a pleasant, genial official.

On November 28, 1868, Mr. Bauer was married to Mary Brehm, who was born at Dayton, Ohio, and is a daughter of John Brehm, of Liberty township. Mr. and Mrs. Bauer have had 11 children, as follows: John J., Elizabeth A., Bertha L., Carl, Lawrence P., Valentine, Lovina, Rudolph, Eda H. and two deceased. The family belong to the Evangelical Association.

DAVID H. RICHARDSON, M. D.

David H. Richardson, M. D., physician and surgeon, at Celina, an eminent member of his profession, was born in Mercer County, Ohio, in 1848. His parents were Dr. John C. and Mary (Gray) Richardson.

For many years the father of Dr. Richardson was a prominent citizen and valued physician in Mercer County. His last years were spent at Fort Recovery, where he died in 1891. His wife, Mary Gray, died in 1881. They had two children.

David H. Richardson was reared in Mercer County and after completing the common-school course he entered upon the study of medicine, subsequently entering Starling Medical College, at Columbus, where he was graduated in 1869. Later he took a course at the Ohio Medical College, at Cincinnati, and was graduated from that institution in 1879.

Dr. Richardson first located at Celina but removed to Fort Recovery in 1870, where he remained until 1882, when he came back to Celina, where he has been settled ever since. He has long enjoyed a large and satisfactory practice and stands very high among the medical men of Northwestern Ohio.

He is a member of the Mercer County Medical Society, of which he has served as president; is a member of the district medical society; and belongs also to the Ohio State Medical Society and the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association.

Dr. Richardson was united in marriage with Mary L. Lehmkuhl, who is a daughter of Henry Lehmkuhl, of Mercer County, and they have one daughter, Minnie A. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Richardson accompany this sketch.

Dr. Richardson is a Democrat in his political views. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and is a Knight of Pythias. With his family he belongs to St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, of Celina. He has long been one of the solid, reliable citizens of Celina, is a member of the Board of Health and stands deservedly high in public esteem.

HON. CHARLES S. YOUNGER

Hon. Charles S. Younger was born and reared on a farm one mile northeast of Celina, in Jefferson township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is the eldest son of B. L. and Victoria Younger. He worked on the farm until the age of 19, when he began public life as a country school-teacher, in which avocation he continued for six years in the public schools of Mercer County. During his vacation he attended the Ohio Normal University, at Ada, four terms, paying his way therein from the money earned while teaching.

After reading law for some time he entered the law department of the Ohio Normal University. Later he entered the senior class of the Cincinnati Law School, from which institution he was graduated with credit in May, 1895, with the degree of LL. B.

He was immediately admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court of Ohio, and in October, 1895, he entered upon the practice of his chosen profession at Celina, and pursued the practice of the law with success, enjoying the merited reputation of a conscientious, paintaking and successful lawyer.

At the spring election of 1897 he was elected a justice of the peace of Jefferson township, and in 1899 was appointed referee in bankruptcy by the judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, which office he resigned at the time of entering upon the duties of probate judge. At the fall election of 1905, he was elected to the office of probate judge of Mercer County, and is serving with dignity, justice and integrity.

Judge Younger was united in marriage on July 29, 1896, with Emma A. Andrews, youngest daughter of Charles W. Andrews, a pioneer farmer of Butler township, Mercer County. They have three sons: Raymond An-

drews, Charles Russell and Clyde Norval. The family home is situated on East Market street, Celina. Judge Younger's fraternal connections are with the Odd Fellows, Woodmen of the World and Masons. He enjoys the honor of representing the 29th District in the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Ohio. With his family he belongs to St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, of Celina.

JAMES MALICK

James Malick, one of the substantial and representative farmers of Center township, was born in Clinton County, Ohio, September 1, 1834, and is a son of Uriah and Chloe (Powell) Malick. He is a grandson of John and Mary (Todd) Malick, who were residents of Hampshire County, Virginia, and a great-grandson of Philip Malick, who was born October 9, 1736, and died May 5, 1797.

Uriah Malick came to Clinton County, Ohio, from Hampshire County, Virginia, and in the spring of 1846 moved to Hardin County, Ohio, where he remained for one year. In September, 1847, he moved to Union township, Mercer County, and located in section 26, removing in 1853 to Van Wert County, where he resided until 1866, when he settled in Nebraska. Subsequently he traded his Western land for a farm in Arkansas, on which he passed the rest of his life. Uriah Malick married Chloe Powell, a native of Hampshire County, Virginia, who was a daughter of Henry Powell, who died at Norfolk, Virginia, in the War of 1812. Seven children were born to Uriah Malick and his wife, namely: James; Mrs. Cynthia Upton, who died in Illinois; Mrs. Lucinda Thomas, who died at Willshire, Van Wert County, Ohio; John, who lives in Wisconsin; Isma, who resides in Van Wert; Uriah, who lives in Bloomington, Nabraska; and Mrs. Almira Bowker, who lived in Nebraska until her death.

James Malick spent his early boyhood days in Clinton County, Ohio, and when 13 years old accompanied his parents to Union township, Mercer County, and later to Tully township, Van Wert County. In 1855 he returned to Union township, where he lived until April, 1857, when he located in section 10, Center township, where he now has 84 acres, and has lived here continuously since, with the exception of two years when he was in the army. In June, 1863, he enlisted in Company K, 88th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and was discharged July 4, 1865, during the greater part of the time having been on guard duty. When Mr. Malick left his farm and gave his service to his country, he had but 12 acres of his land cleared and lived in a log cabin. The latter has given way to a comfortable new house, and other improvements have been made in the way of barns and other necessary out-buildings.

Mr. Malick was married in March, 1857, to Matilda Patterson, who died in February, 1892, aged 55 years. Four children were born to this union, namely: Mary Alice, widow of Frank Spicer; Isma, residing on the Mendon pike in Center township, who married Nettie Copeland, and has six children; Annie, who married Rev. W. H. Poole, who is now located at Alma, Illinois; Maggie C., who married Charles Halfhill, and lives near Mercer; and Addie L., who is a graduate of the University of Michigan and also took a course in hospital work in Chicago, is a practicing physician at Piqua.

Mr. Malick is a Republican politically, and has served in various township offices. In 1856 he joined an Odd Fellow lodge which permitted its charter to lapse during the war, and he never became affiliated with any other body of the order. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

FREDERICK MILLER

Frederick Miller, veterinary surgeon at Fort Recovery, was born February 19, 1869, in Jay County, Indiana, and is a son of Henry and Margaret (Stoltz) Miller.

Henry Miller was born, reared and educated in Alsace, Germany, and was there engaged in farming until 26 years of age, when he came to this country, landing at New Orleans, Louisiana, where he remained for a number of years, subsequently moving to Jay County, Indiana. Mr. Miller was married to Margaret Stoltz, a native of Germany, who came to America with her father, Nicholas Stoltz, a well-known farmer of Jay County, Indiana. Mr. Miller and his wife became the parents of five children, as follows: Frederick, George, Adam, Charles and William, all of whom are married and live in Jay County, with the exception of Frederick, the subject of this sketch. Mr. and Mrs. Miller are also residents of Jay County, Indiana, residing on a farm.

Frederick Miller was reared and educated in Jay County, attending the district schools during the winter months and assisting on the farm during the summer. When 18 years of age, in 1888, he spent one year at the experimental station at Purdue University, Indiana. He returned home for a time and in the fall of 1890 entered the Chicago Veterinary College, from which he was graduated March 24, 1891, when he was just 21 years old. He opened an office in Fort Recovery in May, 1891, and has since been successfully engaged in the practice of his profession. In 1903 he erected the Miller veterinary hospital in Fort Recovery. Mr. Miller also owns a fine stock farm of 30 acres in Recovery township, where he raises blooded horses; he takes great pride in his stallions.

Mr. Miller was married May 3, 1891, to Mary Loretta Huey, a daughter

of Isaac Huey. They live in a fine, large residence which Mr. Miller purchased some years ago and on which he has made many improvements. He is a member of the Ohio State Veterinary Association. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and to the Knights of the Golden Eagle.

W. T. PALMER

W. T. PALMER, one of the well-known business men of Celina, who has been in the grain business in Mercer County for the past 11 years, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, in 1869, and is a son of B. H. Palmer, who is engaged in the grain business at Ashland, Ashland County.

W. T. Palmer was reared in Wayne County and was educated in the schools there. He has been literally brought up in the grain business, as his father has been identified with it for some 40 years and his business experience lies largely in this direction. In 1894 he opened up a grain business at Rockford, Mercer County, where he remained for six years, since when he has been operating at Celina. As a business man he stands very high and is connected with many of the important and successful business enterprises of this section. He is a stockholder and a director in the Citizens' Banking Company, of Celina; a stockholder and director in the Berne Grain & Hay Company, of Berne, Indiana; a stockholder and director in the Exline Lithographic Company, of Cleveland, Ohio; and a stockholder in the Rockford telephone and Electric light companies.

In 1896 Mr. Palmer was married to Mary Exline, of Van Wert, Ohio, and they have two children—Vellone Exline Palmer and Eugene H. Palmer. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer are members of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church of Celina, and he is superintendent of the Sunday-school. Fraternally he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

WILSON SELBY

WILSON SELBY, a representative farmer and highly respected citizen of Franklin township, resides on his very valuable farm in section 27, consisting of 160 acres of well-cultivated land. Mr. Selby was born in Franklin township, Mercer County, Ohio, May 29, 1855, and is a son of Jacob and Mary A. (Winters) Selby.

Jacob Selby was born near Germantown, Ohio, and was a son of Charles and Brittannia (Buxton) Selby, the former of whom was born and reared in the vicinity of Cincinnati. When his eldest son was 16 years old, Charles Selby moved to Mercer County, where he entered 320 acres of land, paying

$1.25 per acre, and on that farm he and his wife died. Their children were as follows: Jacob; Sarah, who married Joseph Frank; Elizabeth, who married John Sayers; and Isaac, who married (first) Cordelia Beauchamp, and (second) Martha Emerson.

Jacob Selby married Mary A. Winter, a daughter of Bradley and Elizabeth Winter, who were pioneers in Franklin township, Mercer County, coming from Pennsylvania. They owned a farm on Chickasaw Creek, on which our subject's parents lived for a short time after their marriage. After the birth of two children, Jacob Selby and wife moved to the Selby home farm, which had come into Jacob's possession, and there the rest of the children were born, the family being as follows: Elizabeth, who married Charles Smith of St. Marys; Wilson; Janet, who died aged four years; Emma, who married Edward McGee and lives on the home farm; Sarah A., who married I. W. Rush, and resides at Toledo; and Cynthia, who died aged eight years. The father died in 1893, the mother having passed away in 1889.

Wilson Selby was reared in Franklin township and attended the country schools. He continued to live on the home farm for a number of years after his marriage, but later settled on his present farm. In the division of the property, his father gave him 160 acres of the old home farm, 80 of which he still owns, and later he purchased an additional 20-acre tract. Mr. Selby is considered a very successful farmer, raising wheat, oats, hay, hogs and horses, in fact, carrying on general agricultural and stock-raising operations.

In November, 1881, Mr. Selby was married to Sarah Jane Miller, a daughter of Calvin and Cynthia (Preston) Miller, and they have five children, as follows: Russell, who married Lillian Monroe, lives at Bradford, Ohio, and has one son, Cleo Donley, born January 31, 1904; Floyd, who married Blanche Ester and is an oil driller in the Indian Territory; Virdie, who married George Preston, resides at Bradford, Ohio, and has two children, Grace, born in October, 1903, and Wilma, born July 18, 1904; Mearle, born July 20, 1887, who married Della Gilliland; and Oma, born November 18, 1889, who is attending school.

Mr. Selby and family are well known throughout their neighborhood, the families on both sides having been established here for so long a period. Their hospitable home sees many visitors and the passing stranger is made welcome in the friendly manner which marks the sterling character of one of Franklin township's representative households.

HENRY STANLEY STANBERY

Henry Stanley Stanbery, who is engaged in general farming and stock-raising in Center township, was born in Mercer County, Ohio, February

2, 1850, and is a son of Stanley and Minerva (Bowen) Stanbery, and a grandson of Amos Stanbery.

Amos Stanbery was born on Long Hill, Morris County, New Jersey, October 4, 1787, and was a son of Samuel Stanbery, who was born on the Scotch Plains of New Jersey, June 26, 1754. Amos Stanbery was a resident of Greene County, Pennsylvania, for some time, but in 1840 moved to Mercer County, Ohio, locating near St. Marys, where he remained the rest of his life.

Stanley Stanbery, the father of our subject, was born in Whiting township, Greene County, Pennsylvania, February 28, 1818. He came to Mercer County about 1840 and located near Neptune, where he was justice of the peace for a period of 18 years. He also served in several other local offices. The country was new and uncultivated, which necessitated clearing of timber lands, and hunting was fine—deer, wild turkey and other game being plentiful. Many immigrants traveled the Fort Wayne road, and as there were few houses between St. Marys and Fort Wayne many families stopped at the home of Mr. Stanbery for accommodations, and beds were made on the floor for them. Stanley Stanbery was married (first) to Minerva Bowen, who died in 1855, leaving five children, namely: Mrs. Mary Davis, who lives in Oregon; Mrs. Sarah Davis, also residing in Oregon; Anne, who died at an early age; Henry Stanley; and Mrs. Jane Kisner, who died in Iowa. Mr. Stanbery was married (second) to Mary Harrison, of Zanesville, Ohio, and they had five children, namely: Inez, who died in childhood; Charles, who lives in Oklahoma; William; Lizzie, who died shortly after her marriage with Calvin Staeger; and John, who resides in Kansas.

Henry S. Stanbery was reared on his father's farm in Mercer County, attending the district schools of Center township, and the Neptune schools for one year. He has always lived in this township, with the exception of two years which were spent in Jefferson township. He farmed the home farm for one year after his marriage, but in 1880 he moved to his present farm, which is located in section 24, a part of which he rents. The buildings on the place when he took possession consisted of a log cabin and a log barn, which have since been replaced by a fine home, barn and other buildings. He has cleared all of the 60 acres, of which only a small strip was cleared when he acquired it.

Mr. Stanbery was married in 1872 to Irene Copeland, who was born in Auglaize County, Ohio, and is a daughter of William and Susan (Flemming) Copeland. Mrs. Stanbery has just recently made a visit home attending a family reunion, both of her parents being still living. Mr. and Mrs. Stanbery are the parents of 10 children, namely: Walter, a resident of Chicago, Illinois, who married Myrtle Keyser, and has one child, Kenneth; Minerva Florence, who married William Black, and lives in Illinois; Emma and Edith, who live at home; William, who married Ida Newcomb and resides in Center

township; Laura, Inez, and Salome, who live at home; Virgil, deceased; and Robert, who lives at home. Mr. Stanbery is a Democrat politically and has served his township in various offices. He was township trustee for two terms, township assessor, two terms, school director for 13 years and county supervisor for some years. He refused the office of justice of the peace. Mr. and Mrs. Stanbery are members of the United Brethren Church.

G. J. C. WINTERMUTE

G. J. C. WINTERMUTE, M. D., who stands in the front rank among the medical men of Mercer County, has been a resident of Celina since 1880. He was born in Licking County, Ohio, July 22, 1841, and is a son of Arason and Virenda (Wayland) Wintermute.

Arason Wintermute was born January 10, 1809, in the State of Pennsylvania, and came to Ohio with his parents, who were among the early pioneers of Muskingum County. Arason grew to manhood in that county and in 1828 was married to Virenda Wayland, who was born March 22, 1807, in Madison County, Virginia, her parents being early settlers of Muskingum County, Ohio. Four years after his marriage, Arason Wintermute and family moved to Licking County, where they became respected and useful members of society. The mother died September 2, 1883, and the father, October 17, 1889. A strange coincidence about their last days was that each, after a visit at Celina, fell ill on the way home, at Columbus, and each died at the home of a daughter in Licking County. Of their 12 children, seven still survive.

The subject of this sketch grew up on his father's farm and had the usual country-school education. In 1860 he entered Ohio Wesleyan University, at Delaware, having earned the money to take this course by teaching school, but he remained only until the spring of 1862, when, with other students, he enlisted in the Union Army, entering Company C, 86th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf. He served from May 25 until September 27, 1862, during this period performing faithfully the duties demanded of a soldier. On April 15, 1863, he was given a position in the commissary department, connected with the railroad service, with headquarters at Nashville, and remained in the South until October, 1865.

After a period spent at home, he decided to try farming and in the spring of 1866 went to Howard County, Missouri, to try the experiment, remaining there until the fall of 1870, when he became a partner and business manager in a mercantile enterprise in the vicinity. During the two years in which he managed the store, he had access to the medical library of his partner, who was a physician, and thus he first became interested in medicine. Fortunately

HON. C. G. O. MILLER

his partner and preceptor was a man of thorough knowledge and by 1874 the young man was ready to take his first course of lectures, which he did in the Missouri Medical College, at St. Louis. In 1875 he was graduated in medicine and surgery at the Cincinnati Medical College. In 1892 he took a post-graduate course at the New York Post-Graduate College.

After becoming a physician, Dr. Wintermute lost interest in his agricultural pursuits and, after selling his farm in 1876, went East, visiting the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia, on this trip, and finally located for practice at Lewis Center, Delaware County, Ohio, in August of that year. He continued to practice there until 1880 and then settled at London, Madison County, but soon recognized the superior advantages offered at Celina, and on November 10, 1880, established himself here. Dr. Wintermute made no mistake in doing so, for his ability and skill were soon recognized and he now is in the enjoyment of a large and lucrative practice and possesses the confidence and esteem of the community. From 1894 to 1901 he was in partnership with Dr. J. E. Hattery under the firm name of Wintermute & Hattery. Dr. Wintermute is now serving as coroner of Mercer County.

On October 5, 1880, Dr. Wintermute was married at Covington, Kentucky, to Mary Ella Darrah, who was born September 4, 1862, near Hannibal, Missouri. Dr. and Mrs. Wintermute have four children, namely: Georgia Ray, born July 20, 1883, who took a special course in the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, and is the wife of Dr. F. M. Hellwarth, of Van Wert, Ohio; Leta Virenda, born October 18, 1885, who also took a special course at the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware; Kathryn Lawson, born February 8, 1888, who is a graduate of the Celina High School; and Anielka Louise, born June 10, 1897. Mrs. Hellwarth has a decided talent for painting, and has some beautiful pieces of hand-painted china that she has exhibited at fairs. Dr. Wintermute and family have a beautiful home on the corner of Main and Anthony streets, Celina.

Dr. Wintermute is interested in all bodies of a scientific nature and belongs to the Mercer County Medical Society, the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association and the American Medical Association. His fraternal relations include the Masons and the Knights of Pythias. In the Masonic order he has taken advanced degrees, being a 32nd degree Mason in the Scottish rite, and a Knight Templar, in the York rite. He belongs to St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church of Celina.

HON. C. G. O. MILLER

Hon. C. G. O. Miller, mayor of Celina and formerly probate judge of Mercer County, whose portrait accompanies this sketch, has been a prominent

citizen for many years and closely identified with many of the most important interests of this section. He was born March 19, 1847, in Saxony, Germany, and accompanied his parents to America in 1852.

Mr. Miller was but five years old when the family located at Somerset, Ohio, and eight years old when settlement was made at New Lisbon. The family remained there for three years and then removed to Upper Sandusky. In 1859 Mr. Miller became a resident of Celina, where he attended school until he was 17 years old and then enlisted in the Union Army, becoming a member of Company D, 193rd Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., under Capt. Alexander Gable. Mr. Miller served through 1864-65 and was honorably discharged at Camp Chase, Ohio.

After the close of his army service, Mr. Miller returned to Celina and to the school-room and subsequently taught school. In 1870 he entered the mercantile establishment of August Fanger in the capacity of clerk, and remained there for five years and then again taught school. In 1876, he was elected justice of the peace for Jefferson township and served efficiently, having commenced the study of the law in the previous year. In 1877 he was admitted to the bar and his promotion was rapid, in 1884 being elected prosecuting attorney of Mercer County. His administration was such as to bring him into great prominence and his reelection followed in 1887.

Mr. Miller has been a life-long Democrat and in 1893 he was chosen by his party as a member of the election board, on which he served two terms. In the meantime he managed a large practice. In 1896 he was elected city solicitor of Celina and in November of the following year he was elected probate judge of Mercer County. He entered upon the duties of his office as mayor of Celina, on January 1, 1906. It will thus be seen that his name has been linked with military, judicial and civic services in his adopted country, and he stands, to-day, as one of the representative men of Northwestern Ohio.

In 1880 Mr. Miller was married to Edna D. Bradley, of St. Marys, Ohio, daughter of Dr. Joseph Bradley, a prominent physician there. Socially he is an Odd Fellow, belonging to Celina Lodge, No. 199; he is also a member of Celina Lodge, No. 399, Knights of Pythias. He is a member of the Lutheran Church.

GEORGE FELVER

George Felver, justice of the peace and one of the best known citizens of Liberty township, resides on his well-improved farm of 100 acres, situated in section 22. He was born December 18, 1858, in Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Isaac and Sarah (Hines) Felver.

Isaac Felver accompanied his parents in childhood from New Jersey to

Mercer County, and was reared in Black Creek township. When the Civil War broke out he entered the service and remained through four years, during which period he participated in many battles and endured great hardship. After his return he located in Liberty township for a time and then removed to Dublin township, where he died. In politics he was a Democrat. The surviving members of his family are as follows: Theodore, residing in Nebraska; Mary A., wife of M. Potts, residing in Ohio City, Ohio; George; Amos, residing in Rockford; Della, wife of Henry Hole, residing in Liberty township; Harriet, wife of Joseph Hinkle, residing at Rockford; Silas, residing in Liberty township; Ida, wife of Samuel Fass, of Ohio City; and Maud, residing at Celina.

In George Felver is found one of Liberty township's most enterprising men and public-spirited citizens. Reared and educated here, the main interest of his life have always been associated with this part of Mercer County. He settled on his present farm in 1888, and, in addition to being one of the representative agriculturists, he has taken an active and intelligent interest in all public affairs and on numerous occasions has been advanced by his fellow-citizens to important local offices. For six years he served as a trustee of Liberty township, is a member of the School Board, and is serving his first term as justice of the peace, his decisions in this office giving universal satisfaction.

Mr. Felver was married to Caroline Bauk, a native of Mercer County, and they have had eight children, namely: Charles, Anderson, Dorothea, Floyd, Gladys, Ralph, Florence and Lucile. Politically Mr. Felver is identified with the Democratic party. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

ABRAHAM JONES

Abraham Jones, a well-known citizen and successful farmer of Gibson township, lives on his farm of 40 acres, situated in section 24, which is a part of the old homestead farm of 100 acres, on which his venerable father still lives. Mr. Jones was born May 10, 1854, in Gibson township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of James and Minerva (Keltner) Jones.

James Jones was born in Butler County, Ohio, and accompanied his parents to Mercer County when 10 years of age, his father, Abraham Jones, being a pioneer. James Jones was married July 4, 1849, to Minerva Keltner, who was a daughter of Abraham and Betsey (Wirtz) Keltner. She was born in Darke County, Ohio, and was reared near Rose Hill. Almost immediately after their marriage, the young couple moved to Gibson township and established the present home. Here 15 children were born to them, as follows:

Hiram, who is a farmer in Miami County, Ohio; Nancy, wife of Jackson Pearson, living in Darke County; Abraham; Susan, wife of Amos Robbins; George, a resident of Weston, Ohio; Mary, wife of George Parant, residing in Oklahoma; Martha, wife of George White, living near Wellsburg, Indiana; Frank; Abigail, wife of George Garretson, living at Ansonia, Darke County; James, who resides in Recovery township; Albert and William, residents of Gibson township; Jacob, who is married, and lives at home; Cora, wife of Washington Stump; and Sarah, who died aged one year. The 14 survivors of this large family are mainly scattered in different homes, but all are near enough to have pleasant family gatherings very frequently. The old house gave way to the present one in 1892.

Abraham Jones has always lived in Gibson township and still remains under the old home roof. In 1883 he was married to Alice Emmons, who died in the following year, leaving one child, Alva.

CHRISTOPHER SCHUNCK

Christopher Schunck, a retired banker, who for 30 years was president of the Citizens' Bank at Celina, owns a valuable farm of 440 acres situated in Jefferson township. He was born March 30, 1830, in Rhenish Bavaria, Germany, and is a son of Peter and Eva (Meckel) Schunck.

Peter Schunck was also born in Rhenish Bavaria, Germany, whence he came in 1860 to the United States. He engaged in farming in Mercer County, Ohio, until his death in 1865. He had four children.

Christopher Schunck was reared in Germany and received a good educational training. He came to the United States in 1848, accompanying an uncle, settling first in Mercer County, but shortly afterward going to Missouri. He lived at St. Louis until he completed an apprenticeship to the cooper's trade, when he returned to Mercer County and worked for several years at his trade and then bought a farm of 80 acres in Granville township and moved upon it.

That Mr. Schunck was a man of sterling qualities was definitely shown when, in 1858, he was elected to the responsible office of county commissioner and served so capably for two terms that he was elected county treasurer and served two full terms in that position. In 1873 he was nominated on the Democratic ticket as a member of the Board of Public Works, but with the balance of the ticket, with the exception of Governor William Allen, was defeated. He then retired from public life and embarked in a grain business for four years and subsequently built a stave factory, which he operated several years very successfully. In 1874 he was elected president of the Citizens'

Bank of Celina, and for 30 years stood at the head of that sound financial institution. Although retired from the presidency, he still has an interest in this bank, since incorporated as the Citizens' Banking Company.

Mr. Schunck has been twice married. By his first marriage, to Margaret Schunck, he has four daughters, all of whom are Sisters of the Most Precious Blood. Mr. Schunck's second marriage was to Bernadine Gottemoller, daughter of Henry Gottemoller, and they have one son, John B., who is practicing dentistry at New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Schunck is a member of the Catholic Church.

DAVID OVERLY

David Overly, a retired capitalist and a respected and esteemed citizen of Celina, was born December 24, 1831, in Darke County, Ohio, and is a son of William and Ann Amelia (Bixler) Overly.

The Overly family originated in Germany, where the grandfather of our subject, Martin Overly, was born. In young manhood he emigrated to America and settled in Ross County, Ohio, where he married. Later he removed to Darke County, and at last to Mercer County. He became the father of these children: William, Martin, Daniel, Zachariah, Thomas, Polly, Nancy, Katie and Susan. William Overly, the eldest son, was born in Ross County, Ohio. His occupation through life was farming. William Overly moved to Darke County, Ohio, with his father and was there married. He was the father of 11 children: Margaret, Mary, Martha, Elizabeth Ann, Jane, James, David, John, Wilson, Kelsey and Henry. The family came to Mercer County in 1832.

David Overly was reared in Mercer County and was educated in the district schools. In 1849 he went to St. Marys, Auglaize County, where he remained for six years, during this period learning the blacksmithing trade and becoming an expert workman. In 1857 he located in Celina, opened a shop of his own and for many years continued to work at his trade, meeting with deserved success. He gradually acquired property and owns the home and shop which he built on the corner of Fayette and Sugar streets. He is looked upon as one of the city's substantial men. He has made his own way in the world and attributes the independence that he now enjoys to the careful, industrious and temperate life he has led.

On August 3, 1854 Mr. Overly was married to Sarah J. Seaman, who was born in Morgan County, Virginia, and died in Celina, Ohio, August 7, 1895. They had no children of their own, but an adopted son, Franklin (Trotwine) Overly, filled a large place in their hearts until his death in 1888. Mr. Overly also reared a daughter of his wife's sister—Belle (Hinkle) Overly,

who married Orrin Miller and with her husband resides in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Mr. Overly was married the second time, in August, 1897, to Mrs. Isabelle McClain, daughter of Moses Ferguson, both of whom were born in Glasgow, Scotland. Mr. Ferguson emigrated to America when his daughter (Mrs. Overly) was two years of age. He died of cholera at St. Marys, Ohio, shortly after his arrival there. Mrs. Overly was reared and educated at St. Marys. By her first husband (Jacob Pohlman) Mrs. Overly has one son, Arthur Pohlman, who resides in Denver, Colorado, where he is the manager of a large mercantile establishment.

Mr. and Mrs. Overly are members of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church at Celina, of which the former has been a member for over 40 years. Mr. Overly has been permanently identified with the politics of Mercer County and for six years was a member of the Board of Infirmary Directors. He has also served as a member of the Village Council of Celina—for several terms. He is a member of the Masonic order.

JOHN REGEDANZ

John Regedanz, a well-known and successful agriculturist, residing on his excellent farm of 99 acres, which is situated in section 21, was born on this farm in Hopewell township, Mercer County, Ohio, July 10, 1861, and is a son of William M. and Dorothea Regedanz.

The parents of Mr. Regedanz were born in Germany. The mother died in Hopewell township, in 1886, but the father still survives and lives at Celina. He was one of the early settlers in this section, coming when the whole country in this vicinity was still one great forest, with here and there a small clearing where some other pioneer had erected a rude log cabin. For many years he industriously worked to clear his farm and put it under cultivation and it is now a valuable property. In politics he has always been a Democrat. He is a member of the Lutheran Church at Celina.

John Regedanz was reared in Hopewell township and since completing his schooling has devoted himself to general farming. He has long been accounted one of the township's most progressive and successful agriculturists.

On February 26, 1891, Mr. Regedanz was married to Alma Muthert, who was born in Mercer County, Ohio, and is a daughter of the late William Muthert. Mr. and Mrs. Regedanz have the following children: Hazel R., Freda C., Lena C., Mabel, Florence and Albert W.

Mr. Regedanz is a Democrat. Since boyhood he has been a member of

the Lutheran Church. His reputation is that of an honorable upright man, who in every way is a first-class citizen.

CLARENCE E. MARSH

Clarence E. Marsh, prosecuting attorney of Mercer County, and one of the leading members of the bar at Celina, was born January 13, 1877, and is a son of the late Hon. Archelaus D. and Mary J. (Thompson) Marsh.

The father of Mr. Marsh was one of the leading men of his day in Mercer County. He was born in Highland County, Ohio, April 19, 1843, and was the only son of James P. and Ellen J. Marsh. He was reared in Highland County until the age of 25 years, when he removed to Brown County, where he prepared for the bar and was admitted to practice in 1872. Two years later he located at Celina and entered into partnership with John W. Loree, with whom he continued for 22 years. At the time of his death, in 1904, he was a law partner of his son, the subject of this sketch. An extended record of his life, including his political career, will be found in another part of this work.

Clarence E. Marsh was reared at Celina and here obtained his literary training. He entered upon the study of the law under his able father and was a student in the office of Marsh & Loree for three years prior to entering the law department of the University of Cincinnati, where he was graduated in the class of 1900. In the same year he was admitted to the bar and very soon made his way to the front in his profession. In the fall of 1902 he was elected prosecuting attorney of Mercer County and entered upon the duties of his office on January 1, 1903; he was reelected in the fall of 1905 and began his second term January 1, 1906. In this position he has proven himself fearless in his stand for what he considers right and has administered the office with rare judgment and efficiency. He enjoys the warm friendship and hearty esteem of members of both political parties. He is a stanch Democrat. His fraternal relations are with the Masons, Knights of Pythias and the Odd Fellows.

WILLIAM M. MILLER

William M. Miller, who carries on an extensive furniture and undertaking business in Mendon, is one of the most successful and enterprising citizens of the village. He was born December 17, 1873, in Center township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Harrison P. and Amanda (Moore) Miller.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Michael Miller, was one of the

pioneers of Mercer County, settling in Center township when the country was a wilderness. He entered over 400 acres of land in the county. He died in 1899 when nearly 80 years of age. His wife survived him until 1901, her death occurring when a little over 80 years old. They were the parents of three sons and one daughter: George, deceased; Silas, who resides in Center township, where he owns and operates a fine farm; Mary, a resident of Union township, whose deceased husband, William Hamilton was a stock-buyer; and Harrison P., the father of our subject.

Harrison P. Miller and his wife were both natives of Mercer County. He was born in January, 1845, and has always been engaged in agricultural pursuits. He is at present a resident of Mendon.

William M. Miller was reared in Center township and attended school in District No. 8. He remained on the farm until he had finished school and then entered the employ of Mr. Yocum, who was in the undertaking business at Mendon. He remained there for about three years and then took a three-years' course at Zanesville. In 1896 he bought out his former employer, Mr. Yocum, and one year also engaged in the furniture business, in which undertaking he met with great success. In 1901 he erected his present large building, which is a fine, two-story structure with a pressed brick, stone-trimmed trimmed front. The wall on the south side of the building is 17 inches thick, being so constructed for protection in the event of fire, as all the buildings on that side are frame. The second floor of the building is occupied by the Odd Fellows' lodge. Mr. Miller has the foundation for another building laid, which is a duplicate in every way of his present building, except in length. Mr. Miller has met with much success as an undertaker and averages one funeral a week. He conducts his furniture business on a systematic basis, keeping a record of all goods sold. He has perhaps the largest furniture store in the county. He even encroaches on the business of other towns, selling goods in all the surrounding towns, such as Rockford, Lima, Spencerville, St. Marys, and numerous other places. In the past five years only two sales of furniture have been made in the town of Mendon by outside parties. Mr. Miller owns one of the prettiest and most attractive homes in Mendon, which he erected in 1905. He has installed in the basement a water-works system designed on his own plans. He is of an inventive turn of mind.

Mr. Miller was married to Mary E. Norris, a daughter of William Norris. She was born in the eastern part of Ohio and came to Mercer County with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have three sons: Elra N., Lowell H., and Hubert. Mr. Miller is a Republican in politics, but reserves the right to vote for the best man. He is a member of Mendon Lodge, No. 750, I. O. O. F., and Mendon Lodge, No. 416, K. of P. He and his family are connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church at Mendon.

HENRY F. WILLMANN

MRS. LOUISA M. WILLMANN

HENRY F. WILLMANN

HENRY F. WILLMANN, a representative citizen of Recovery township, owning 469 acres of valuable land in Recovery and Washington townships, was born July 16, 1839, in Germany, and is a son of Claus Henry and Mary Ann (Evers) Willmann.

Claus Henry Willmann, father of our subject, was born in the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany. When Napoleon invaded Hanover, on his triumphal way to Russia, he impressed all the young Germans and Prussians who came within his reach, and Mr. Willmann happened to be one of these. Thus, although unwillingly, he accompanied Napoleon to Moscow. On several occasions he endeavored to escape and once, when seemingly successful, was recaptured and with others was confined in a church under sentence of execution. Fortunately, on the night before the sentence was to be carried out, he, with his companions, escaped. Shortly before the battle of Waterloo, he joined the Prussian forces and on that memorable field he fought against Napoleon. For his loyalty he received a medal from the Kingdom of Hanover, which he displayed with justifiable pride until the day of his death, which occurred in Germany. The mother of Mr. Willmann also died in Germany, but her father crossed the Atlantic Ocean when he was 90 years of age, in 1844, and died at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1846. The parents of our subject had three sons and four daughters, viz.: Mary, who lived and died in Germany; William, who came to America in 1840 and was never more heard from; Angelina, who resided in Baltimore at the time of her death; Frederick, who resides at Dillsburg, Indiana; Henry F.; and Louisa and Eliza, who died in Germany.

Henry F. Willmann came to America when he was 17 years old and the story of his many adventures, trials, hardships and final defeat of misfortune, reads as an interesting romance. He had been given the good, common-school education which Germany accords every one of her sons, but the labor field in his native land did not seem so large or promising as in America, and before he reached the age of necessary military service, in 1856, Mr. Willmann crossed the ocean to the United States, coming to this country with many companions of his own land, as a passenger on the sailing vessel "Roland," which required six weeks and two days to complete the voyage, landing the passengers safely, however, at the port of Baltimore, Maryland.

The young German youth landed in the strange city without understanding the language of the country to which he had come, on October 2, 1856, but he was fortunate enough to have a sister living in Baltimore, and through her he was bound out to a cabinet-maker to learn a trade, to receive $20 the first year; $25, the second year; $30, the third year; and $35, the

fourth year. He worked there six weeks and then seeing nothing promising in the job he left, after having a few words with his sister who wished him to remain. As a brother was established at Cincinnati, he then decided to join him; and the fact that he also had an uncle living in that city made it still more likely that he could find remunerative work there. When he left Baltimore, he had in his pocket money amounting to about 6¼ cents. Walking was the only means of transportation possible with him, and he started out with his clothes done up in a handerchief. At every likely place on the way toward Cincinnati, he asked for work and when he was about three miles out from Baltimore he obtained a job with a farmer, who offered him for his services $4 a month and board. Mr. Willmann remained here three weeks and then went to work for the brother of this man, in an ore mine. The pay was the same but the work was very hard.

Mr. Willmann was patient and persevering and continued to work in the mine all winter, but in the spring he went back to Baltimore and secured work there in a shipyard, handling iron ore, railroad rails, etc., doing extraordinarily laborious work, for which he was paid $1.25 per day; as he worked over time, he secured about $9 or $10 per week. Probably he overtaxed himself, for in the latter part of July he was taken seriously sick and he learned from his physician that he could never again work in the same manner. As soon as he had sufficiently recuperated, he started again for Cincinnati, having previously saved his money; when he reached there he still had $14. He at once went to work for his uncle, Mr. Evers, who was a gardener, receiving $8 per month. After two months with his uncle, he entered a cooper shop in order to learn the cooper's trade. This entailed his working for one year for his board and washing. When the year was up he left for Indianapolis and reached that city practically in a penniless condition. As he could not work at the trade he had learned without tools, he was obliged to borrow $10 to purchase tools, and these same tools he still has in his possession.

Mr. Willmann worked in Indianapolis until the spring of 1860, although in the previous year he had had another setback, being attacked with typhoid fever and having to spend all his money in paying doctor's fees. From August, 1859, until the spring of 1860, he was able to work only enough to about pay his board, and thus at this time he returned to Cincinnati just about as poor as when he had reached Indianapolis, a year and a half before. He soon found employment at his trade but was again taken ill, so ill indeed that he had to have two doctors attend him and came very near to death, but by the middle of March was back at work again and worked from March, 1860, to April, 1861, when he enlisted for the three-months' service, in the First Regiment, Ohio Vol. Cav. His company remained at Cincinnati about six weeks, the members boarding themselves; then, as the time of enlistment was

so short, the company disbanded and our subject went to work on a farm in Indiana, about 30 miles from Cincinnati.

Mr. Willmann was working on this farm when the news of the battle of Bull Run reached him and he immediately determined to re-enlist; for this purpose he made his way to Rising Sun, Indiana, where, on July 23, 1861, he enlisted in the Second Indiana Battery and was attached to the Army of the Frontier, in which he faithfully served from the above date until September 4, 1864, when he was mustered out at Fort Smith, Arkansas, being finally discharged and paid at Indianapolis in the succeeding month. During this long period of service, Mr. Willmann had participated in 28 different battles and engagements and was never disabled except for about six weeks which he spent in the hospital at St. Louis, when he first went out, suffering from malarial fever.

Upon his return from the war he tried work again at his trade, but army rheumatism had attacked him and he found himself unable to keep on in this line. It required trial of about 10 different jobs before he found the one that suited him as to work and also as to pay. In 1865 he engaged at $12 a week as porter with a wholesale liquor house, with the agreement that in three months, if mutually satisfied, he was to be paid more. His first raise was to $15 a week and then to $100 per month, in 1866; for the next two years his salary was $2,100 per year. He filled both the positions of salesman and of foreman. In 1868 he left this store and embarked in the wholesale liquor business for himself at Cincinnati, entering into partnership with Mr. Krenning and George H. Branshire. In 1872 he sold out his interest and within 10 days was in business for himself, but two weeks later took in John H. Gentrip as partner, and they continued together until 1879, when Mr. Willmann retired to his farm in Mercer County, which he had purchased in 1877. It consists of 335 acres in Recovery township and 134 acres in sections 30 and 31, Washington township. Although he continued in business at Cincinnati until 1879, he made his home on the farm in 1878, and since the following year has remained continuously on it. It is fine land, richly cultivated and well-improved.

On December 21, 1865, Mr. Willmann was married to Louisa Margaret Muthart, and they have had six children, namely: William H., living at home, who has two children—Lorena Anna Louisa and Clifford H.; Edward Frank, who died in infancy; Ella, who married George Geyer, of Cincinnati, and died of consumption February 1, 1904; Harry E., who married Ida C. Rabe, lives on the home farm and has four children—Edward, Helen, Henry F. and Hazel Louise; and Amelia Matilda, born March 2, 1879, who married John Heiby, and died March 29, 1897, leaving an infant daughter,

Florence Ida, who was born February 12, 1897, and died August 6th of the same year.

Mr. Willmann has served as township trustee and as school director in Recovery township. Fraternally he is an Odd Fellow and a member of the Protestant Protective Association, of Cincinnati.

In 1903 Mr. Willmann took a trip to his old home in Germany. He says he found the same straw roof, but the building was more dilapidated. He made extended visits to different parts of Germany and was there about two months.

Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Willmann accompany this sketch.

E. E. JACKSON

E. E. Jackson, village solicitor and prominent citizen of Rockford, where he is practicing law, was born February 6, 1869, in Moon township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, and is a son of G. W. and Mary Jane (Harper) Jackson.

On the maternal side our subject's grandfather, David Harper, was a Pennsylvanian, a respected old resident of Allegheny County. On the paternal side, Grandfather Jonathan Jackson was born in North Carolina and always took pride in being of the same family as was President Andrew Jackson. He died in 1868, leaving a widow who still survives, at the age of 93 years. She is of French Huguenot extraction and was born in Virginia; her family name of Massey can be easily traced to the nobility of France.

The parents of our subject were both born in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, where they still reside, the father in January, 1842, and the mother in February, 1849. Their family consists of seven sons and two daughters, as follows: E. E.; William S., of Coraopolis, Pennsylvania; Luther A.; Lena, wife of G. L. McCartney; Hayes H.; Calvin A.; Charles C.; Vinnie B. and Raymond. The father of our subject served in the Army of the Potomac, during the Civil War, from August, 1862, until the close of hostilities. He was a member of Company K, 139th Reg. Pennsylvania Vol. Inf., Sixth Army Corps, and participated in all the principal engagements in the Virginia campaign, being wounded in the right shoulder, in front of Fort Stephens, and returning to his home with a record of which his children are proud.

E. E. Jackson was primarily educated in the schools of his native township. In 1887 he entered Bridgewater Academy and attended almost every term until 1890. In 1891, 1892 and 1893 he worked at the carpenter's trade, and in the fall of 1894 began to teach school, continuing until March, 1896, when he spent one term in the West Pennsylvania Medical College at Pitts-

burg. On October 15, 1896, he entered the Ohio Normal University, at Ada, where he remained until March 1, 1900, from 1898 until 1900 being in the law department. After his admission to the bar, he located at Rockford, where he formed a partnership with C. S. Mauck, and has continued in active practice ever since. Mr. Jackson has met with hearty approval and stands today as a leading member of his profession in his locality.

On July 21, 1899, Mr. Jackson was married to Minnie A. Wolf, a daughter of J. B. and Sarah Wolf, of Ada, Ohio. They have three children, two daughters and one son, namely: Dee, Dorothy and Calvin F.

Politically Mr. Jackson is a stanch Republican and his party has chosen him as a leader on numerous occasions. He served one term as mayor of Rockford and is at present serving as village solicitor. He has been solicitor for the building and loan association ever since locating here and formerly was secretary of the Rockford Telephone Exchange. He is prominently identified with fraternal life, being a member of Shane's Lodge, No. 377, F. & A. M., at Rockford; Celina Chapter, No. 120, R. A. M., at Celina; Order of the Eastern Star; Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Eagles.

J. E. HATTERY

J. E. Hattery, M. D., vice-president of the First National Bank of Celina, and an eminent physician and surgeon of this section of the State, was born July 25, 1857, at Van Wert, Ohio, and is a son of Josiah and Elizabeth (Ritter) Hattery.

Until he was 17 years of age, Dr. Hattery assisted on the home farm and made due preparations, in the local schools, for a collegiate course in the Northern Indiana Normal College, at Valparaiso. Upon his return from college, he began to teach school and for some years continued in the profession, at the same time devoting his leisure to the reading of medicine, under the supervision and direction of Dr. G. W. McGavren, of Van Wert. In 1880 he entered Starling Medical College, at Columbus, where he was graduated in 1884.

Shortly after he received his medical degree, Dr. Hattery began the practice of his profession, locating at Elgin, Van Wert County, where he remained until 1893, when he located in Celina. In January, 1894, he entered into a medical partnership with Dr. G. J. C. Wintermute, under the firm style of Wintermute & Hattery, which continued for seven years; since 1901 he has practiced alone. While professional duties claim the larger part of his time and attention, Dr. Hattery has other interests of an important character,

and since 1900 he has been vice-president of the First National Bank of Celina.

In 1886 Dr. Hattery was married to Mary A. Nichols, who was born in Union township, Mercer County, and is a daughter of Samuel and Sarah Nichols. Dr. and Mrs. Hattery have five children, namely: John S., a teacher in Van Wert County, Ohio; Florence A., Lenora, Russell R. and Sidney Dillon. The pleasant family home is situated on the corner of Market and Ash streets.

Dr. Hattery belongs to the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association and is one of its most scholarly and experienced members, and has contributed to its literature. He is also a member of the Mercer County Medical Society, and the American Medical Association, and in his fraternal connections is a Mason. In politics he is a Republican.

JOHN GRAEBER

John Graeber, a successful agriculturist of Franklin township, residing on his farm of 80 acres, in section 32, was born November 19, 1858, in Auglaize County, Ohio, and is a son of Augustus and Sophia (Seymor) Graeber.

Augustus Graeber was born in Germany and came to America with his parents when quite young. He married Sophia Seymor, also a native of Germany, who came to America with her parents during childhood. She had two sisters, Anna and Hannah, and one brother, Henry. Augustus Graeber and his first wife had four children: Mary, Hannah, John and Henry. The mother of these children died in 1872. By a second marriage, to Mary Niemeyer, five more children were born to Augustus Graeber, namely: Anna, Minnie, Charles, Edith and Ida. Both Mr. and Graeber died in Auglaize County.

John Graeber was reared on his father's farm in Auglaize County, where he remained until his marriage, when he moved to St. Marys, later to New Bremen, and then to Knoxville, Ohio, working at each place for about one year. Then he turned his attention to farming, renting in Auglaize County for five years. In 1893 he bought his present farm, from John Niekamp, where he has since been engaged in general farming. He was married to Catherine Ritter and they have one daughter, Jennie. They are members of the Lutheran Church.

GRANVILLE FREEMAN

Granville Freeman, who resides on his well-cultivated farm of 20 acres, in Liberty township, is one of the old settlers of this locality and one

of the representative and highly respected citizens. He was born in Randolph County, Indiana, March 25, 1827, and is a son of Daniel and Mary (Wells) Freeman.

The parents of Mr. Freeman were natives of North Carolina and were early settlers in Randolph County, Indiana. When Granville was three months old, his parents removed to Mercer County, and for a short time resided in what is now Fort Recovery, which at that time consisted of three houses. They then settled in the southeastern part of Liberty township, with the early development of which locality the family had much to do.

Granville Freeman enjoyed only the meager educational opportunities afforded by the early pioneer schools, mainly subscription ones, and he has always been in sympathy with the great public school movement, which affords such abounding opportunities to the youth of the present day. His father was an educated man and was a pioneer school-teacher, so that he had more encouragement than fell to the lot of many of his boyhood companions. The only opening in a business way in his section, was in the line of agriculture, and Mr. Freeman became a practical farmer and has given his attention to agricultural interests all his life. He erected his comfortable residence in 1885.

On February 8, 1854, Mr. Freeman was married to Elizabeth Robison, born in Highland County, Ohio, May 25, 1827, a daughter of Henry and Lydia (Stafford) Robison, the former of whom was born in Delaware. The Robisons were among the early settlers of Highland County, whence they moved to Mercer County in 1853.

Mr. and Mrs. Freeman have had eight children, the four survivors being the following: Jacob N., of Miami County, Indiana, who has six children; Milton J., of Washington township, who has five children; Mary, wife of Edward Herron, of Liberty township, who has three children, and Dora, wife of George Helmer, who has five children. Mr. Freeman has 16 great-grandchildren.

In political sentiment, Mr. Freeman is a Republican and he has frequently been elected to responsible offices. He has served for several years as township trustee and has been president of the board, and he has also served as a member of the Board of Education. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Rockford, having given service in the Civil War and he draws $22 per month pension.

Mr. Freeman has been a great hunter in his time and estimates that more than 1,000 deer have fallen before his unerring rifle. He has never encountered bear in Mercer County, but killed several in Paulding County. In one season he remembers trapping 95 mink, selling each pelt for 95 cents apiece, and in another season he caught 187 raccoons. On one hunting expedi-

tion, in company with his neighbor, Amos Heins, Mr. Freeman captured 22 foxes in two days.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Freeman are members of the Society of Friends. They are well known throughout Liberty township and are both esteemed by a wide circle of friends. In 1904 they celebrated their half-century anniversary of wedded life. The story of their lives as pioneers, if faithfully written, would record varying experiences and no small number of early hardships and dangers. They still remain active members of society, interested in all that concerns the community or the health and happiness of friends, and in their still busy lives, kindly considerate of others and consistent in daily walk and conversation, they exert an influence which will remain long after they have passed away.

JOHN M. SCHLOSSER

John M. Schlosser, attorney-at-law, at Celina, and a representative citizen, was born in Marion township, Mercer County, Ohio, in 1859, and is a son of the late John Schlosser.

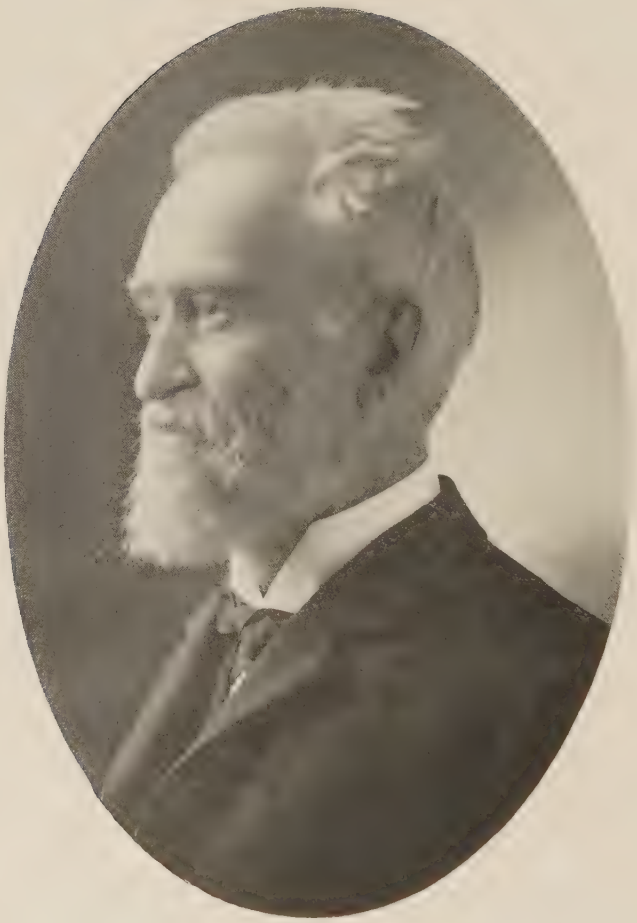
Frantz A. Schlosser, the grandfather of J. M. Schlosser, was the fourth earliest settler in Marion township. He was a soldier under Napoleon in the Napoleonic wars, also served in the War of 1812, and later settled in this section of Ohio. The late John Schlosser was a merchant at Carthagena, Ohio, for a long period and also postmaster. He was born and reared in Mercer County and was one of its prominent men.

John M. Schlosser was reared in Marion township and was educated first in the local schools, later at St. Charles Seminary and spent two years at Carthagena. For some eight years he taught school throughout the county, then went to Valparaiso, Indiana, where he became a student of law and in 1890 was graduated from the law department of the University of Indiana. He was admitted to the bar in Indiana in the same year, but came immediately to Ohio and in 1891 was admitted to the Ohio bar and located at Celina. Here Mr. Schlosser has been actively engaged in practice ever since, gaining and maintaining a foremost position in his profession. He is serving in the office of justice of the peace.

On November 26, 1901, Mr. Schlosser was married to Theresa C. Schaefferling, of Piqua, Ohio. A daughter, Juanita Maria, was born to them on the 10th of November, 1906.

Mr. Schlosser has business interests at Celina, outside of his profession, and is a stockholder in the First National Bank. He is serving as deputy State supervisor of elections.

Mr. Schlosser was reared in the faith of the Catholic Church. He has



CALVIN E. RILEY

long been very active in its various social and benevolent organizations and is a member of the Knights of St. John and of St. Joseph's Aid Society.

CALVIN E. RILEY

Calvin E. Riley, president of the Commercial Bank Company of Celina, and a member of a distinguished family of Mercer County, was born at St. Marys, Ohio, October 9, 1830, and is a son of James Watson and Susan (Ellis) Riley.

James Watson Riley was identified with Mercer County for many years. A sketch of the father of our subject will be found in this volume, with the leading events of the life of his father, Capt. James Riley; extended mention of James Watson Riley will also be found in the historical part of the work.

Calvin E. Riley, whose portrait accompanies this sketch, spent the early years of his boyhood in St. Marys. When he was nine years of age, his father's family moved to Celina and later to Lima, subsequently returning to St. Marys from which place the family moved to Columbus. In early manhood Mr. Riley returned to Celina and first engaged in farming and milling, later being interested in milling and also in a mercantile business. Later he moved on a farm and was engaged in farming until he once more took up his residence in Celina, where he has continued to live ever since, giving a good deal of attention to the developing of oil properties in Auglaize and Mercer counties.

In 1888 he became a partner in the private banking business of Godfrey & Milligan. In 1893 the business was incorporated and on January 1, 1901, it was merged into the Commercial Bank Company of Celina. This financial institution has a capital of $50,000 and a surplus of $10,000. Its officers are: Calvin E. Riley, president; C. D. Hierholzer, vice-president; J. B. Pulskamp, cashier; Ashley M. Riley, assistant cashier; and E. J. Hierholzer, teller. The board of directors is made up of the officers of the company.

On April 11, 1854, Mr. Riley was married (first) to Gabrilla Brandon, of Celina, who died in 1885. In 1886 Mr. Riley was married (second) to Mrs. Susan A. Harris, a daughter of Guy Shaw, of Alexander, New York, a member of a distinguished military family of that State. Mrs. Riley died at Celina, July 31, 1904, at the age of 70 years. She was a lady of beautiful Christian character and a devoted member of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Mr. Riley had seven children by his first marriage, viz: Willshire and Fannie, deceased; Calvin Willshire, a farmer of Jefferson township; Robert Ellsworth, physician and a druggist of Celina; James Zura, a hardware merchant of Celina; Ashley Melville, assistant cashier of the Commercial Bank

Company; and Grace Lucinda, wife of Byron Griffith, a partner with his brother-in-law, James Zura Riley.

Politically Mr. Riley is a Republican, but has never consented to hold office. Socially he is a Mason and belongs to Celina Lodge, No. 241, F. & A. M., and to the Royal Arch Chapter.

JOHN SCHNARRE

John Schnarre, who is engaged in general farming and stock-raising on a well-improved farm located in section 23, Center township, was born on the home farm in this township, which lies just north of his present location, October 7, 1859, and is a son of Casper and Mary (Rodard) Schnarre.

Casper Schnarre was born in Germany and came to America when a young man, locating in Mercer County, being the first of his family to settle here and was one of the earliest pioneers of Center township, where he purchased a farm. He made a clearing and erected a log cabin, afterwards adding a frame addition to it, in which John Schnarre, our subject was born. Casper Schnarre married Mary Rodard, also a native of Germany, who crossed the Atlantic Ocean in the same ship with him. Mr. and Mrs. Schnarre became the parents of 10 children, namely: Henry, deceased; Mrs. Mary Garwick, deceased; Caroline, who married Fred Fisher and resides in Auglaize County; Amelia, who married Charles Paglow and lives at St. Marys; John; Julia, who died in childhood; Sarah, who married Frank Fisher, of St. Marys; Casper, who resides in St. Marys; George, who lives on the old home place, in Center township; and Jennie, who married Charles Aschbacher. Casper Schnarre, the father of this family, died May 19, 1898, at the age of 80 years.

John Schnarre was reared to manhood on the home farm in Center township, which he and his brothers assisted in clearing. After his marriage he lived for one year at Neptune, at the same time continuing to farm the home place. He then went to Franklin township, where he rented a farm for six years, after which he moved to the farm of Charles Paglow, in Auglaize County, where he remained for four years. He then purchased a farm of 53 acres on the old Fort Wayne road, where he still resides. In 1892 he bought 18 acres of the home place. There were but three rooms to the house when he bought the farm, to which he has added four rooms, making a very comfortable home. He has made other improvements to his property in the way of erecting outbuildings, there being no buildings of this nature on the place when he acquired it, but an old buggy shed and a granary.

Mr. Schnarre was married March 5, 1882, to Sarah Baker, who was born in Fayette County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Levi and Susan (Pratt) Baker,

now residents of Neptune. Mr. and Mrs. Schnarre have had three children, namely: Josephine, born in 1882; a child that died unnamed in 1885, and Ralph Odean, who was born in 1898 Politically, Mr. Schnarre is a Democrat.

WILLIAM E. WILSON

William E. Wilson, one of the leading business men at Fort Recovery, proprietor of the Fort Recovery lumber yards, was born March 28, 1856, in Hillsdale County, Michigan, and is a son of William and Rosanna (Mills) Wilson.

After the death of our subject's mother, in 1858, the father removed from Michigan to Fulton County, Ohio, where he subsequently was married to Mrs. Ann (Latham) Creghlo, and they continued to reside there until the death of the father in 1891. He was a wheelwright by trade. His widow still lives in Fulton County.

When our subject was about 15 years of age, he went to Clayton, Michigan, where he was in the employ of the general mercantile firm of G. V. Hawkins & Company, for two years. He then entered a commercial college at Adrian, Michigan, where he completed a six-months' course in bookkeeping and business methods, but in the following year, 1874, he embarked in farming, operating a rented farm of 120 acres in Eaton County, Michigan, until 1877, following which he worked for some two years on a farm, by the day. In 1879 Mr. Wilson went to Lake County, Michigan, and embarked in a general mercantile business in a lumber town in that section, which he conducted until 1881, when he sold out to Wall & Sipley, a large lumber concern there, and then became bookkeeper for this firm. The failure of the firm in 1883, which was precipitated by the failure of the Cadillac Bank, threw him out of employment, and he then moved to Cadillac and there accepted the superintendency of Cummer & Son's planing-mill, and remained with that firm for two years. He subsequently served in the same capacity for Dunham, Peters & Company at Chase, Lake County, Michigan, a large manufacturing firm, for which he later went out on the road and was their traveling representative until the spring of 1889, when he came to Fort Recovery.

Mr. Wilson is one of the progressive, enterprising business men of this town. After locating here, he established the lumber business, in partnership with George A. Reuter, and has been sole owner since November 5, 1904. He gives employment to from seven to 10 men and does a general planing-mill business and sells lumber, lath, shingles, sash, doors and blinds, cement, coal and building blocks. His partnership with George A. Reuter continued from 1889 until 1904.

In the fall of 1881, Mr. Wilson was married to Ella E. Williams, in Lake County, Michigan. Mrs. Wilson is a daughter of Charles I. Williams and was born in Allen County, Ohio. They have two adopted children, twin sisters, Minnie D. and Maude D.

Mr. Wilson has taken an active part in public affairs for a number of years and while a resident of Lake County, Michigan, was treasurer of Yates township for some two years. For nine years he has served as treasurer of the Board of Education of Fort Recovery and has been a member of the Board of Public Affairs. For a long period he has been prominent in Masonry and is serving as master of Fort Recovery Lodge, No. 539, F. & A. M. Mr. Wilson is a valued member of Pisgah Congregational Church at Fort Recovery. He stands very high in public esteem, not only as a man of business capacity but also of business integrity.

WILLIAM HAIR

William Hair, a trustee of Hopewell township, and one of its prominent citizen, resides on his well-improved farm of 80 acres, situated in section 21. He was born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, November 17, 1832, and is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth F. (Fenicle) Hair.

The parents of Mr. Hair belonged to old established families of Pennsylvania. In 1837 they came to Ohio, settling in Wayne County, where they remained until 1844, when they removed to Richland County.

William Hair was five years old when his parents settled in Wayne County, and about 12 when they removed to Richland County. His education and training through boyhood was such as pioneer youths usually received. For a number of years he operated a saw-mill, although his main business in life has been farming. In 1860, accompanied by his family, Mr. Hair came from Richland to Mercer County, and in the following year settled on the farm where he still resides, having developed it from the forest. He has long been one of the leading citizens of this section, for a number of years has served as township trustee, for eight years was township treasurer, and for three years a justice of the peace.

In Richland County, Ohio, Mr. Hair was united in marriage to Margaret Pitcher, who was born in that county, and they have had six children, namely: Mary A., wife of Charles Stevenson, residing in Michigan; Sarah E., wife of Charles Smith, residing in Hopewell township; Jacob, residing in Hopewell township; Ida, wife of Frank Lacey, residing in Hopewell township; and two deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Hair are members of the Church of God, in which Mr. Hair is an elder.

GIDEON LE BLOND

GIDEON LE BLOND, deceased, was in life one of Celina's most enterprising and successful business men and prominent citizens. He was born in Knox County, Ohio, and was a son of Evera C. Le Blond, who was born in Paris, France, May 22, 1789, and came to the United States in early manhood.

Gideon Le Blond was six years old when his parents moved from Knox to Richland County, where he was educated and where he entered into a mercantile business with his father. They continued in business at Belleville until 1847, when our subject removed to St. Marys, Ohio, where he carried on his mercantile concerns until 1856. He then settled on a farm adjoining Celina, where his family resided up to 1864, during his absence as a soldier in the Civil War. In 1861 he went out as captain of Company H, 71st Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and continued in command until December, 1862, when impaired health compelled him to resign and return to the peaceful pursuits he had left in order to assist in the preservation of his country. During his years of arduous service, Captain Le Blond participated in many serious battles, notably those of Shiloh, Clarksville and Fort Donelson.

In 1864 Mr. Le Blond re-entered business, embarking as a dry goods merchant at Celina, but five years later he sold out and entered into partnership, in 1869, with the late Abner Davis, in the hardware and grain business, under the firm name of Le Blond, Davis & Company. This firm was in active business life for 22 years. Thus Mr. Le Blond's career as a business man proved his ability and likewise his integrity. The concerns with which his name was associated were successful on account of their honorable dealings and enterprising spirit.

In 1841 Mr. Le Blond was married to Jane Patterson, who died in 1868. She was born at Cadiz, Harrison County, Ohio. Their children were: John P., Elizabeth, Francis C. (deceased), James W. (deceased), Ida (deceased), and Charles G. In 1871 Mr. Le Blond was married to Mrs. Emily P. Ayers.

JOHN P. LE BLOND, the eldest son of the late Gideon and Jane (Patterson) Le Blond, has been in business at Celina since 1864, formerly as a merchant, but since 1901 as assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Celina. He belongs to a family whose business achievements and good citizenship have made it a notable one in this section of Ohio.

SAMUEL DIXON

SAMUEL DIXON, proprietor of the "Oak Grove Stock Farm," which consists of 90 acres situated in Liberty township, was born in Mercer County, Ohio, January 25, 1859, and is a son of Henry and Amroy (Price) Dixon.

Henry Dixon was born in Jackson County, Ohio. For a number of years he resided at Rockford, Mercer County, following the occupation of an auctioneer. He served with credit during the Civil War. At one time he was elected to the office of constable. His death occurred in January, 1892. He married Amroy Price, daughter of Isaac Price, who entered government land in Liberty township at a very early day, and is reputed to have been the first justice of the peace appointed in Mercer County. Mrs. Dixon accompanied her father from New Jersey to Ohio.

Samuel Dixon has spent the larger part of his life in Liberty township, and obtained his education in the schools of Mercer County. From boyhood he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits and has always been a lover of horses. He has paid particular attention to this branch of farming and has done much to develop it into an important industry of this section. At present he owns seven stallions of note. The horses raised on this farm are of the strains known as: Belgian Shires, Hackneys, French Coach and Hambletonian trotting horses.

Mr. Dixon was united in marriage with Christina Herman, who was born in Liberty township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a daughter of the late Jacob Herman. They have two children, Mary M. and Virgie.

Politically, Mr. Dixon is affiliated with the Republican party. He is one of the township's progressive, public spirited men, one who is a hearty supporter of all movements calculated to be of general advantage to his fellow-citizens.

EDWARD H. MERSMAN

Edward H. Mersman, a leading business man of Celina, president of The Mersman Bros., Brandts Company, which is exclusively engaged in the manufacture of furniture, was born in 1872 at Fort Wayne, Indiana, and is a son of J. B. and Mary (Maag) Mersman. J. B. Mersman was born in Putnam County, later resided in Indiana and subsequently returned to Putnam County, where he was engaged in the planing and sawmil business for some 12 years, finally removing in 1900 to Celina, where he established a factory for the manufacture of extension dining tables, both medium and high grade. In 1901 he sold his business to his sons, Edward H. and Walter J. Mersman, and Henry Lennartz. They continued the business under the firm name of Lennartz & Mersman Brothers until May, 1906, when the firm name became Mersman Brothers & Brandts. The following September the business was incorporated under laws of Ohio with a paid-up capital stock of $150,000, under the present style of The Mersman Bros., Brandts Company. Henry Lennartz disposed of one-half his interest in 1904 to Edmund Brandts

and in May, 1906, the remainder of his business was purchased by Edward H. and Walter J. Mersman and Edmund Brandts. At the present time the company manufactures dining tables exclusively, an annual business of over $200,000 being done. Employment is given to 125 men in the factory and 10 traveling salesmen represent the company on the road. Shipments are made to nearly every State in the Union and to Canada. At the present stage of growth, it will only be a few months until the company will have the largest dining table factory in the United States. Edward H. Mersman is president; Walter J. Mersman, vice-president and superintendent; and Edmund Brandts, secretary and treasurer.

Edward H. Mersman was reared at Kendallville and LaGrange, Indiana, securing his education mainly in the latter place and becoming an employee at the bed factory at LaGrange as soon as he left school. Later he was employed in a planing-mill and a sawmill, removing later to Ottoville, Putnam County, where he continued in the same line until he came to Celina. Here in conjunction with his brother, Walter J. Mersman, and Henry Lennartz, he purchased his father's business and has continued the same successfully ever since.

In 1895 Mr. Mersman was married to Rosa Grewe, a daughter of Henry Grewe, a retired resident of Delphos, Ohio. They have one child, Marcella. Mr. Mersman is a member of the Catholic Church and belongs to the Catholic Knights of Ohio. In politics he is a Democrat.

EDWARD A. DIBBLE

Edward A. Dibble, a representative citizen of Center township, was born December 1, 1831, in Essex County, New York, and is a son of Lyman and Eliza Jane (Smart) Dibble.

Lyman Dibble was born March 2, 1804, and was a son of Levi Dibble, a native of Vermont, whose parents had immigrated from France in the 18th century and settled in New England. Lyman Dibble was reared and educated in New York, but in 1837 he moved to Champaign County, Ohio, where he engaged in farming for eight years. He then came to Mercer County and lived for several years in Jefferson township, and then moved to Center township, where he purchased 80 acres of farm land from his brother Luman, who had made the original entry. To this he added 40 acres and built a log cabin on the place, which was later replaced by another, which was built by his son Charles, in 1850, who still resides there. Lyman Dibble remained on this farm until his death, which occurred July 24, 1869, at the age of 65 years. On February 17, 1831, he married Eliza Jane Smart, who was a native of Vermont, born February 7, 1813, and died August 6, 1898, at the age of 85

years. They were the parents of the following children: Edward A.; Charles F.; Rebecca, who married James F. Moore of Mendon; and Frances Ann. Mr. Dibble was a life-long Democrat. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Edward A. Dibble grew to manhood on the home farm in Center township, he being about 15 years old when his parents moved to Ohio. In 1862 he enlisted in Company F, 56th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., at Celina, Ohio, and served until August 4, 1863. He participated in the battles at Port Gibson, Champion Hills and the siege of Vicksburg, receiving no injuries in battle, but contracting rheumatism and scurvy, from which diseases he has suffered more or less ever since. His monthly pension of $8 was increased three years since to $12.

Mr. Dibble was married November 30, 1854, to Mary Kumpf, a daughter of George and Catherine Kumpf. The former was of German and the latter of French ancestry. Mr. and Mrs. Dibble have had the following children: Alton, who lives at home; Annie, who resides at home; Susan Jane, who died while her father was in the army; Levi, deceased; George S., residing at St. Marys, who married Jane Springer, and has four children—Hazel V., Flossie B., Artie Belle and Harold; Ida Belle, who lives in Lima, Ohio; William Henry, residing at Celina, who married Ida Belle Steele, and has three children—Donald Steele, Glendale and Opal; an infant, deceased, unnamed; LeRoy S., an employe in the L. E. & W. R. R. offices, at Lima, who married Ida Matilda Hays; and Catherine, who died aged about eight years.

Mr. Dibble has always been an active Democrat. He was a member of the Board of Infirmary Directors for six years, served also as township trustee, supervisor, and school director, and was a member of the Board of Education. As an infirmary director, his record shows the faithfulness of his services and the economical manner in which he guarded the interests of the county. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and was class leader for several years. Formerly he was a member of the Neptune Post, G. A. R., in which he filled all the offices but quartermaster and chaplain; and when that post passed out of existence, he joined Kiesler Post, No. 83, at St. Marys.

GEORGE BOLLENBACHER

George Bollenbacher, Jr., a representative farmer and stockman of Liberty township, where he owns a well-cultivated farm of 120 acres, was born September 19, 1864, in Liberty township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Adam and Christina (Koch) Bollenbacher, who were natives of Germany.

MR. AND MRS. AARON JONES AND FAMILY

Adam Bollenbacher came to Mercer County with his parents when about 12 years of age, his father, George Bollenbacher, being one of the pioneer settlers. Both the grandfather and the father of our subject were men of sterling worth and led busy agricultural lives in Liberty township as long as they lived. They were Democrats in politics and the family has always been identified religiously with the Evangelical Association. The mother of our subject owns a 60-acre farm in Liberty township, but resides with her son, Frederick Joseph Bollenbacher, on the home farm. Of the large family born to the parents of George Bollenbacher, nine survive and he is the second in order of birth.

George Bollenbacher, Jr., was reared on his father's farm in Liberty township, and was educated in the schools of District No. 3. He has always given his attention to agriculture and has the reputation of being one of the most successful farmers of his locality. In 1889 he settled on his present farm, which shows the effects of careful cultivation. He engages in general farming and raises a great deal of first-class stock.

On April 22, 1888, Mr. Bollenbacher was married to Caroline Miller, a daughter of Philip Miller, of Van Wert County, and they have five children, namely: Walter, Tona B., Clarence W., George E. and Nora R. The members of the family belong to the Evangelical Association.

Mr. Bollenbacher has always been a Democrat but has accepted no office other than that of school director of District No. 1, and has been a useful member of this School Board for some time. He stands well with his neighbors and enjoys the confidence and respect of all who know him, making no great show of public spirit, but being always ready to help along public improvements when they are needed.

The children of George Bollenbacher are all anxious to secure good educations. The oldest, Walter, who finished the common-school course, has been a student at the Rockford High School for two years past. The other children are attending school in District No. 1.

AARON JONES

Aaron Jones, who is a large manufacturer of drain tile, at Burkettsville, belongs to an old and numerous family which has been established in Ohio since the grandfather's time. He was born January 18, 1855, in Gibson township, Mercer County, Ohio, on the old home farm, and is a son of Edward and Mary Ann (Rood) Jones.

Abraham Jones, our subject's grandfather, was a farmer in New Jersey; before he was married and had a family, he moved to Butler County, Ohio,

where he engaged in farming and manufacturing brick. At a later date he removed to Darke County and settled in what is now Gibson township, Mercer County, being among the first settlers. At that time this whole country was yet covered with a heavy growth of timber. He died on this farm when about 65 years old. His wife, Rebecca Pierson, a native of Butler County, Ohio, survived him many years, dying at the age of 92. Of their large family these names have been preserved: Sallie Ann, who was the wife of Isaac Foster; Edward, father of our subject; Washington and Francis (twin); Margaret, who was the wife of Amos Keller; Abbie, who was the wife of Jacob Replogle; Betsey, who was the wife of Benjamin Misner; and James, the only survivor, who married Minerva Keltner and now lives on the homestead farm in Gibson township.

Edward Jones, father of our subject, was born on the farm in Butler County, Ohio, and was a boy when he accompanied his father to the farm in Darke (now Mercer) County, but was old enough to give assistance in the erection of the round-log house which constituted the first home, and in the clearing of the land. At the age of 21 he was united in marriage with Mary Ann Rood, a daughter of Aaron and Phebe (Carter) Rood. She was born November 30, 1821, on a farm in Connecticut and lived in the house in which she was born until she was 18 years of age, when she accompanied her parents to Darke (now Mercer) County, Ohio. Her mother lived to be 94 years of age. She was the only daughter in her parents' family, her three brothers being: Alpha, Lauren B. and William Henry. The Rood brothers well known residents of this county, are large farmers and successful brick manufacturers. To them is credited the making of the first brick in this county.

After the marriage of Edward Jones and Mary Ann Rood, in 1840, they resided for a short time at the Jones home and then moved to Fort Recovery, where Mr. Jones went into the manufacture of brick. This was a new industry as nothing but logs had previously been used in this locality for construction purposes. The present thriving town of Fort Recovery was then a cluster of 10 log houses, built around the old log inn, and it was long the custom of the young people to gather in it and enjoy dancing on its rough floor. The greater number of meetings of all kinds were held there on account of the old building given a larger audience room than was afforded by any of the private cabins. Whether brick cost too much or whether the early settlers of Fort Recovery were well enough satisfied with their picturesque log huts, the writer is not informed; at any rate Mr. Jones seems to have given up his brick-making enterprise there after a short trial and moved on a farm of 40 acres which he bought, which was located southeast of the hamlet. In a short time he sold this farm, however, and bought 200 acres from his uncle, Walter Decamp.

After moving to the new farm, Mr. Jones put up a commodious, hewn-log house and set to work making brick for the new house, which in the course of time replaced the log one and which still stands sound and strong. On this farm Edward Jones passed the rest of his life and died in August, 1900, when over 80 years of age. His widow still survives, bearing her weight of years remarkably well. In 1906 when she attended a farmers' jubilee celebration, held at Fort Recovery, the first prize, a bonnet, was awarded her, she being the eldest woman in attendance.

Edward Jones and wife were the parents of 12 children, as follows: Harvey, who married Mary Arnold and lives not far from Fort Recovery, in Indiana; David P., who married Elizabeth N. Williams and lives in Mercer County, near Fort Recovery; Abbie, a resident of Indiana, who is the widow of Abraham Rantz; Lauren B., who married Sadie Winn and lives near his brother, Aaron; William T., who married Amanda Winters and lives in Chicago; Elizabeth, deceased, who was the wife of George Fremeyer; Aaron and George (twins), the latter deceased at the age of six months; Henry, who married Lucy Howe and lives at Lightsville, Darke County, Ohio; Phebe, who married O. A. Penny and lives in Paulding County, Ohio; Mary Ann, who married E. T. Firth and lives at Greenville, Ohio; and William Henry, who died in infancy. Edward Jones was a prominent man in his township; he served in the offices of trustee and supervisor and was also a member of the Board of Education.

Aaron Jones attended the schools of his native township until old enough to be of use to his father at the farm work and at brick-making, in which occupations he became well trained. On August 30, 1883, he was married (first) to Irene Whitesell, a daughter of David Whitesell. They moved to Burkettsville, where Mrs. Jones died on October 23rd of the following year. Mr. Jones was married (second) on October 14, 1888, to Emma Arnold, who was born December 23, 1868, on her father's farm in Darke County, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have had seven children, as follows: Edward L.; Nellie, who died aged 11 years; Harley, who died aged 14 days; Orley, who died aged 11 months; and Nora, Jesse and Ora.

Henry Arnold, Mrs. Jones' father, was twice married; first, to Catherine Holsapple, to which union were born eight children, namely: Mary, Isaac, Samuel, Sarah, Susan, Joseph, Sophia and Elizabeth, deceased. Mr. Arnold was married (second) to Sophia Ulery, and they had six children, as follows: Eliza, Anna, Henry, Emma, John and William. Both parents of Mrs. Jones died in Darke County. They were worthy members of the Dunkard Church.

Mr. Jones has been a resident of Burkettsville since 1884. He owns an excellent farm of 64 acres in section 34, Granville township, and 20 acres in the home place, where he grows farm products and tobacco. He has large

business interests at Burkettsville and in his 22 years of residence here has firmly established himself in the confidence of his fellow-citizens. Politically he is identified with the Republican party and takes a deep interest in all that concerns good government both in local and national affairs, but is not an aspirant for office.

Mr. Jones and family belong to the Disciples' Church at Burkettsville, to which he gives a liberal support. A view of the family group accompanies this mention. He is connected fraternally with the Knights of Pythias and the Junior Order of the United American Mechanics. He is one of the representative men of the town.

AUGUST HAMBURGER

AUGUST HAMBURGER, who resides on his well-developed farm of 74 acres located in section 31, Jefferson township, was born in Baden, Germany, February 3, 1851, and is a son of Conrad and Margaret Hamburger, natives of Germany.

August Hamburger came to America with his mother when 13 years old, his father having died in Germany previous to their emigration to this country. They first settled in Marion township, Mercer County, Ohio, in 1864. Here August was reared and educated. In the fall of 1896 Mr. Hamburger moved from Marion township to his present home in Jefferson township. In 1898 he sold 45 acres of farm land in Granville township that he owned and then bought his present farm.

Mr. Hamburger was married April 13, 1875, to Philomena Lange, Four of their eight children are living, namely: Charlie, Annie, John and Valentine. Mrs. Hamburger died January 30, 1890. Mr. Hamburger's second marriage was with Mrs. Frances (Gerlach) Greiwe, widow of Barney Greiwe. She was the mother of six children by her first marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Hamburger are members of the Catholic Church. He is also a member of the German Independent Aid Society of Celina.

ANTHONY RATHWEG

ANTHONY RATHWEG, one of Coldwater's well-known business men, who is engaged in the manufacture of brooms, was born in Auglaize County, Ohio, November 16, 1859, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Streaker) Rathweg.

Mr. Rathweg was eight years old when his parents moved to Mercer County and settled on a farm at Carthagena. Here he was reared and attended the district schools. His father died in 1880. Two years later, with

his mother, our subject moved to Celina, where he worked at carpentering. He then learned the harness-maker's trade and in 1884 took up his residence at Coldwater, where he opened a harness shop which he conducted successfully for nine years. After disposing of his harness shop, he embarked in the hardware business, also carrying a large line of farming implements. In the fall of 1905 he sold the hardware business. Mr. Rathweg at the present time operates a large broom factory, in which business he engaged on April 30, 1906. He employs eight men, who turn out about 15 dozen brooms per day. Mr. Rathweg also has other business interests, being agent for the Canada Life Assurance Company, the Ohio Farmers, Continental and other fire insurance companies. He is one of the large stockholders in the People's Bank of Coldwater, and was vice-president of this bank for a period of three years.

On February 9, 1886, our subject was married to Anna May Romer, of St. Henry, daughter of J. B. Romer. They have had 10 children, eight of whom are still living. The record is as follows: Henry J.; Joseph H.; Elizabeth Gabriella; Julius Clemmens; Agnes Henrietta Florentina; Clarence Frederick; Leona Alvina Henrietta; Joseph Walter, who died at the age of five years and two months; Mary Ruth; Florentina, who died aged 11 months; and Margaret Antoinette. Mr. Rathweg is a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church at Coldwater, of which he has been treasurer since 1894. He is a member of St. Joseph's Society; Knights of St. John, of which he is captain; and Knights of Columbus.

ISAAC BRANDON

Isaac Brandon, county commissioner of Mercer County, is the owner of 337 acres of farm land in Franklin and Butler townships. His residence is on his Franklin township property in section 22, known as the "Lake Mercer Stock Farm," where he is engaged in raising pacing horses. He was born March 3, 1851, in Shelby County, Ohio, and is a son of Xurg Brandon.

Xurg Brandon was born in Darke County, Ohio. He was married to Delila Baker, a daughter of Lewis Baker, who came from Virginia and settled in Darke County. Mr. and Mrs. Brandon had 10 children, of whom three died during infancy. The other seven were as follows: Xurg, who died when a boy; Gabrilla (now deceased), who married Calvin E. Riley, and had seven children; Eliza, who married George Breo; Lydia (Ryan); Lucinda, who married John Hight; John, who married Jennie Knox; and Isaac, who was the youngest of the children. Mr. Brandon died at Berlin, Shelby County, where he was the proprietor of a hotel, passing away when our subject was 10 months old. After the death of Mr. Brandon, his wife sold the hotel and

moved to Celina. In 1856 she was married to John Haneline and moved to a farm in Center township, Mercer County. One child was born of this union, Nathan, who died at the age of four years. Mrs. Haneline, mother of our subject, died in 1903, at the age of 89 years.

Isaac Brandon lived with his step-father until about 12 years old, after which he learned the blacksmith's trade and worked on a canal boat for two years, driving the mules on the tow-path a portion of the time. He then worked on a farm for Calvin E. Riley.

On January 2, 1872, he was united in marriage to Caroline L. Emerson, daughter of John and Ellen Emerson. In 1873 he moved to his present farm in Franklin township, which he purchased four years later from the State. Here Mr. Brandon is engaged in general farming and breeding pacers. One of his best known horses is "Red Hall," whose record is 2:13¼.

Mr. Brandon is the father of four children: Electra, born November 4, 1872, in Jefferson township, who married Allen Palmer and lives at St. Marys; Delila Ellen, deceased in infancy; and Fannie, born in 1876, and Park T., born in 1879, both of whom live at home. The two last named attended the Ohio Normal University at Ada, Park T. Brandon also taking a course at Valparaiso College and at Tacoma, Washington. Mr. Brandon was elected county commissioner in 1903 and still serves in that capacity. He is a member of the United Brethren Church and belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

ANTHONY B. GROTHJAN

ANTHONY B. GROTHJAN, sheriff of Mercer County, is one of the leading business men of Celina, the proprietor of an extensive carriage and buggy manufacturing concern, which stands as one of the old and reliable houses of this city. Mr. Grothjan was born in Auglaize County, Ohio, September 12, 1859, and is a son of John and Agnes (Vogelpole) Grothjan.

Anthony B. Grothjan was reared in his native county and obtained a common-school education. His father was a farmer but his own inclinations led him to learn blacksmithing and he completed his apprenticeship to that trade and to the carriage-making trade, in 1875. In 1878 he settled in Mercer County and entered the employ of William Cron, with which manufacturer of wagons and carriages he remained seven years, at the expiration of which time Mr. Grothjan formed a partnership with John Hein, under the firm name of Grothjan & Hein, for the carrying on of a general blacksmithing and carriage-building business. This firm did an extensive business in the line above mentioned for a period covering 17 years, at the close of which

period Mr. Grothjan bought Mr. Hein's interest and has continued alone until the present. He gives employment to six competent workmen.

Mr. Grothjan was married to Rose Leifeld, who is a daughter of William Leifeld, of Celina, and they have a family of six children: Agnes, Jerome, Eulalia, Lucile, Harold and Cletus. Mr. Grothjan is a consistant member of the Catholic Church.

Politically Mr. Grothjan has always been a sound Democrat, and has been highly regarded by his party. He is well known all over the county as a man of business integrity and personal honor, and his election in November, 1906, to his present office was a public recognition of the same.

THEODORE HEMMELGARN

Theodore Hemmelgarn, a pioneer settler of Granville township, and one of its best known residents, now residing with his son Anton, to whom he sold his 160-acre farm, was born in Germany, September 4, 1829, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Derkas) Hemmelgarn.

The parents of Mr. Hemmelgarn were born and married in Germany. In 1835 they came to America, accompanied by an uncle and aunt of Theodore, the former of whom, William, died at Cincinnati, and the latter, Mary, married Henry Brockman, and died at Cranberry Prairie, Mercer County. The Hemmelgarns were poor when they came to this country and they struggled through several years before they reached Mercer County. The father then bought 40 acres of land from the State which he subsequently cleared, and built first a round-log cabin, later, a hewed-log cabin, in which the parents died. This was at a time when pioneer conditions prevailed, the country being but sparsely settled. Herds of deer, numbering as many as 20 individuals, would invade the farm and wild turkeys provided a greater part of the family sustenance. The children born to Henry and Mary Hemmelgarn were: Mary, who married Bernard Drahman—both now deceased; Elizabeth, a nun in a religious institution, who died in Massachusetts; Theodore; Henry, who married Catherine Smith; Joseph, who married Gertrude Smith; and Catherine, who died in childhood.

Theodore Hemmelgarn was six years old when he came with his parents to America and he remained with them until his marriage, in 1853, to Mary Hulsman. After a happy married life of 37 years, she died June 21, 1890. She was a daughter of Herman and Margaret Hulsman, who came to America about the same time as did the Hemmelgarns, she being a babe at that time. The other members of her family were: Bernard, Henry and Joseph, of whom Henry is the only survivor.

Mr. and Mrs. Hemmelgarn had 13 children, as follows: Theodore, who married Mary Nordenbrook; Henry, who married Elizabeth Racheling; Joseph, who married Anna Wagner and lives in Minnesota; Bernard, who married Anna Krimblebeck; John; Anton, who married Lena Shendeler; William, who married Takla Nau; Josephina, who married John Thresher; Theresa, who married Joseph Steinbruner; and Mary, Benjamin, William and Elizabeth, deceased.

For 10 years after his marriage Mr. Hemmelgarn lived near St. Henry, on a farm which he bought right in the midst of the woods. This farm he sold at a later date and in 1864 purchased from David Winterood the one mentioned above, on which a frame house stood. At that time the country was very wild in every direction and Mr. Himmelgarn pastured his cows in the woods and, when he went in the evening to bring them home, would often take his gun along and shoot wild game for the evening meal. He worked hard to develope this farm and was cheerfully assisted in all his efforts by his estimable wife. He is very proud of his seven grandchildren, Anton's children, who are named: Aloysius, Alvina, Regina, Ernest, Leona, Charles and Adolph. The family belongs to St. Bernard's Catholic Church at Burkettsville. Politically Mr. Hemmelgarn is a Democrat.

ADAM BOLLENBACHER

Adam Bollenbacher, deceased, was one of the early settlers of Liberty township, and for many years was one of its leading citizens. He was born in Germany, January 10, 1840, and died in Liberty township, April 25, 1901, leaving behind him the record of a most worthy life. His parents were George and Henrietta (Alt) Bollenbacher.

When Adam Bollenbacher was 12 years of age, his parents decided to emigrate to America; when they reached the United States, they made their way to Mercer County, Ohio, and settled in the woods of Liberty township. His parents died on the home farm on which Adam grew to manhood. In his younger years he learned the carpenter's trade and followed the same for a time, but the main activity of his life was farming. Although largely dependent upon his own efforts, he became a man of substance, acquired considerable property and left an ample estate.

On April 9, 1864, Mr. Bollenbacher was married to Christina Koch, who was born in Germany, November 7, 1842, and is a daughter of John and Annie M. Koch, who brought her to America when a child of two years. The family resided several years in Butler County, Ohio, and then came to Mercer County, where both parents died.

The children born to Adam Bollenbacher and wife were 13 in number and of these nine still survive, as follows: John Jacob, of Liberty township; George, of Liberty township; Adam, of Van Wert County; Andrew and Charles, of Liberty township; Mary H., wife of Theodore Baker, of Black Creek township; Christina Caroline, wife of John J. Deitsch, of Liberty township; Frederick Joseph, living on the home place in Liberty township, who married Margaret Smith and has two children—Carrie Luetta and Lura Elizabeth; and Amos B., of Black Creek township. The mother of this family still survives and resides on the old farm in Liberty township, with her son, Frederick Joseph Bollenbacher; she owns a valuable tract of 60 acres.

Mr. Bollenbacher always cast his vote with the Democratic party, not on account of possible political honors, but because he believed in its principles. He was a consistent member of the Evangelical Association. He was a kind husband and careful father and was a neighbor in all that the word implies. As a citizen he cast his influence at all times in the direction of improvement, favored the cause of education and set an example of morality.

PRICE T. WATERS, M. D.

Price T. Waters, M. D., who has been established at Chattanooga, Liberty township, since 1898, is an experienced member of the medical profession and is recognized as the leading physician and surgeon of the northwestern section of Mercer County. Dr. Waters was born in Delaware County, Ohio, June 27, 1853, and is a son of Eber D. and Sarah J. (Taylor) Waters.

His parents removed from Delaware to Mercer County, Ohio, in 1857, settling in Jefferson township at a time when few homes had been founded there. The father was an ardent Republican, and during the Civil War period was a strong supporter of the government. He served some years as an officer in the internal revenue service.

Price T. Waters was reared in Jefferson township, where he obtained his primary education. He was ambitious from boyhood, although mainly dependent upon his own resources, and persisted until he was able to take advantage of better opportunities in the Celina High School. He then engaged in teaching, first in Mercer County and later in Dallas County, Iowa. In the meantime he prepared by private study for his chosen profession and then entered the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was creditably graduated in 1886. He first located at Celina, where he was in partnership, for a short time, with Dr. G. J. C. Wintermute, and then settled at Redfield, Iowa, where he remained in active practice for three years. Deli-

cacy of health appearing in his family, he then turned to a warmer climate and for some years practiced in various parts of the South—at Harriman, Tennessee, and Dry Branch, Georgia, in particular. He then returned to Mercer County and after a short practice at Celina located at Chattanooga, where he is in the enjoyment of a large and lucrative practice. Dr. Waters keeps in touch with all modern line of thought in his profession and is an active and valued member of the county and State medical societies and also of the American Medical Association. He is examining physician at Chattanooga for a number of insurance and fraternal organizations, including the New York Life Insurance Company; Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York; the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company of Milwaukee; and for the New Corydon (Indiana) camp of the Modern Woodmen of the World, of which he is an associate member. He is a member of Celina Lodge, No. 241, F. & A. M., Celina, Ohio.

Dr. Waters was married (first) to Alma E. Jamieson, of Redfield, Iowa, and they had two children, the one survivor being Kate, who is the wife of L. J. Hamilton, of Shawnee, Oklahoma. Dr. Waters was married (second) to Florence Feldheiser, widow of Henry Feldheiser and daughter of the late Hon. Jacob Broadwell, who was at one time probate judge of Mercer County. Dr. Waters votes with the Republican party. His portrait accompanies this sketch.

SYLVESTER KENNEDY COPELAND

Sylvester Kennedy Copeland, a prominent farmer and highly esteemed citizen of Center township, was born in Center township, Mercer County, Ohio, on the old home place, July 28, 1858, and is a son of Wesley and Mary A. (Perkins) Copeland, and a grandson of Abner and Anna (Morgan) Copeland, who moved in 1834 from Greene County, Ohio, to Auglaize County, where they spent the remainder of their days.

Wesley Copeland was born in Greene County, Ohio, November 25, 1825, and in 1834 accompanied his parents to Auglaize County. In the fall of 1853, he moved to Mercer County, and located on a farm of 160 acres. To this he has made additions, first of 40 acres and later of another tract of 40 acres, and still later added 93 acres, making a total of 333 acres. With the assistance of our subject and his other sons he has cleared all this with the exception of 105 acres. He taught school for some time in Auglaize County, but the greater part of his time has been devoted to general farming and stock-raising. Mr. Copeland is a Republican and has held several township offices. He is a member of the United Brethren Church. He married Mary A. Per-

kins, who was born in Richland County, Ohio. They had seven children: Jennie, deceased, who was the wife of James Connor, of Wapakoneta, Ohio; Elscina, who married W. J. Wollam and resides in Oklahoma; Eli Franklin, who lives near Rockford; Sylvester Kennedy; William Alpheus, who lives at Mendon; Nettie, who married Isma H. Malick, and resides in Center township; and Edith, who married Thomas P. Kiser, of Indianapolis.

Sylvester K. Copeland was reared on his father's farm and received his early education in the district schools. He attended college at Valparaiso, Indiana, and also the Ohio Normal University, at Ada. He afterwards taught school one year in Auglaize County, and three years in Mercer County, two of these in Center township. After his marriage he moved to the farm of his father-in-law, where he remained for one year, and then he returned to the home farm until 1890, when he moved to Celina and engaged in the hardware business under the firm name of Wust, Winter & Copeland, in which business he remained for one year. Mr. Copeland then settled on his present farm where he has since been engaged in general farming and stock-raising, making a specialty of Polled Durham cattle. He now has about 40 head of high grade and pedigreed stock. In 1902 he built the finest barn in this section of the country, the main part of which is 36 by 68 feet with a wing, 36 by 50 feet, and with box stalls 10 feet square. In 1887 he erected a comfortable home, which he has further improved.

Mr. Copeland was married (first), in 1886, to Lida Siler, a native of Center township, Mercer County, Ohio, and a daughter of John and Mary (Tullis) Siler. Two children were born to this union: Ray and Virgie. Mrs. Copeland died December 3, 1897, aged 31 years, 9 months and 17 days. He was married (second), in 1899, to Grace Whyte, a native of Indiana, and a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Munger) Whyte, who were residents until their death in Montgomery County, Ohio, near Dayton.

Thomas Whyte and wife were the parents of eight children, as follows: Albert H., deceased; Warren M., who resides at Washington, D. C., where he is in the cornice business; Alice, a resident of Dayton, Ohio; Thomas D., a mechanic at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Jessie, a teacher at Dayton, Ohio; Grace; Lincoln A., who resides on the old home place, which he owns; and William G., who is a mechanic at Springfield, Ohio. By a former marriage, to Elizabeth Conwell, Mr. Whyte had a daughter, Elizabeth, who is the wife of J. H. Groves, of Rushville, Indiana.

In national politics, Mr. Copeland votes with the Republican party, but in State and local contests he is an independent. He has been a member of the Board of Education for many years and for 10 of these was its president. He is a member of the United Brethren Church.

cacy of health appearing in his family, he then turned to a warmer climate and for some years practiced in various parts of the South—at Harriman, Tennessee, and Dry Branch, Georgia, in particular. He then returned to Mercer County and after a short practice at Celina located at Chattanooga, where he is in the enjoyment of a large and lucrative practice. Dr. Waters keeps in touch with all modern line of thought in his profession and is an active and valued member of the county and State medical societies and also of the American Medical Association. He is examining physician at Chattanooga for a number of insurance and fraternal organizations, including the New York Life Insurance Company; Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York; the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company of Milwaukee; and for the New Corydon (Indiana) camp of the Modern Woodmen of the World, of which he is an associate member. He is a member of Celina Lodge, No. 241, F. & A. M., Celina, Ohio.

Dr. Waters was married (first) to Alma E. Jamieson, of Redfield, Iowa, and they had two children, the one survivor being Kate, who is the wife of L. J. Hamilton, of Shawnee, Oklahoma. Dr. Waters was married (second) to Florence Feldheiser, widow of Henry Feldheiser and daughter of the late Hon. Jacob Broadwell, who was at one time probate judge of Mercer County. Dr. Waters votes with the Republican party. His portrait accompanies this sketch.

SYLVESTER KENNEDY COPELAND

Sylvester Kennedy Copeland, a prominent farmer and highly esteemed citizen of Center township, was born in Center township, Mercer County, Ohio, on the old home place, July 28, 1858, and is a son of Wesley and Mary A. (Perkins) Copeland, and a grandson of Abner and Anna (Morgan) Copeland, who moved in 1834 from Greene County, Ohio, to Auglaize County, where they spent the remainder of their days.

Wesley Copeland was born in Greene County, Ohio, November 25, 1825, and in 1834 accompanied his parents to Auglaize County. In the fall of 1853, he moved to Mercer County, and located on a farm of 160 acres. To this he has made additions, first of 40 acres and later of another tract of 40 acres, and still later added 93 acres, making a total of 333 acres. With the assistance of our subject and his other sons he has cleared all this with the exception of 105 acres. He taught school for some time in Auglaize County, but the greater part of his time has been devoted to general farming and stock-raising. Mr. Copeland is a Republican and has held several township offices. He is a member of the United Brethren Church. He married Mary A. Per-

kins, who was born in Richland County, Ohio. They had seven children: Jennie, deceased, who was the wife of James Connor, of Wapakoneta, Ohio; Elscina, who married W. J. Wollam and resides in Oklahoma; Eli Franklin, who lives near Rockford; Sylvester Kennedy; William Alpheus, who lives at Mendon; Nettie, who married Isma H. Malick, and resides in Center township; and Edith, who married Thomas P. Kiser, of Indianapolis.

Sylvester K. Copeland was reared on his father's farm and received his early education in the district schools. He attended college at Valparaiso, Indiana, and also the Ohio Normal University, at Ada. He afterwards taught school one year in Auglaize County, and three years in Mercer County, two of these in Center township. After his marriage he moved to the farm of his father-in-law, where he remained for one year, and then he returned to the home farm until 1890, when he moved to Celina and engaged in the hardware business under the firm name of Wust, Winter & Copeland, in which business he remained for one year. Mr. Copeland then settled on his present farm where he has since been engaged in general farming and stock-raising, making a specialty of Polled Durham cattle. He now has about 40 head of high grade and pedigreed stock. In 1902 he built the finest barn in this section of the country, the main part of which is 36 by 68 feet with a wing, 36 by 50 feet, and with box stalls 10 feet square. In 1887 he erected a comfortable home, which he has further improved.

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Thomas Whyte and wife were the parents of eight children, as follows: Albert H., deceased; Warren M., who resides at Washington, D. C., where he is in the cornice business; Alice, a resident of Dayton, Ohio; Thomas D., a mechanic at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Jessie, a teacher at Dayton, Ohio; Grace; Lincoln A., who resides on the old home place, which he owns; and William G., who is a mechanic at Springfield, Ohio. By a former marriage, to Elizabeth Conwell, Mr. Whyte had a daughter, Elizabeth, who is the wife of J. H. Groves, of Rushville, Indiana.

In national politics, Mr. Copeland votes with the Republican party, but in State and local contests he is an independent. He has been a member of the Board of Education for many years and for 10 of these was its president. He is a member of the United Brethren Church.

WALTER J. MERSMAN

WALTER J. MERSMAN, vice-president and superintendent of The Mersman Bros., Brandts Company, of Celina, was born at Kendallville, Indiana, May 15, 1876, and secured his education in the schools at LaGrange, Indiana, and Ottoville, Ohio. He is a son of J. B. and Mary (Maag) Mersman, the former a native of Putnam County, Ohio, who is now engaged in a lumber and sawmill business in Arkansas. He became thoroughly conversant in the saw and planing-mill business at Ottoville under his father and was a practical man in the business when, with his brother, Edward H. Mersman, and Henry Lennartz, he purchased the dining table manufacturing business of his father in 1900. He has charge of the factory as superintendent.

Mr. Mersman was married on June 5, 1900, to Elizabeth Miller, of Ottoville, Ohio. They have two children—a son, Cyril, and a daughter, Margaret. Mr. and Mrs. Mersman are members of the Catholic Church. In politics the subject of this sketch is a Democrat.

SAMUEL C. HYLER

SAMUEL C. HYLER, who enjoys the honorable distinction of being the oldest man in Franklin township, owns two fine farms, one of 64 and the other of 20 acres. His residence is on the latter, which is located in section 21. Mr. Hyler was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, September 5, 1818, and was the only child of his parents, Samuel Curtis and Margaret (Bartholomew) Hyler.

Samuel Curtis Hyler was born in Delaware and moved to Fairfield County, Ohio, in young manhood, where he married Margaret Bartholomew, a native of Virginia. He engaged in farming in Richland County, and died there when his only child was very small. The mother subsequently married Jacob Cromer, who had come to this neighborhood from Virginia, and they had two children, Caroline and Lucinda. Caroline married (first) Ryan Carter, and (second) Joshua Roberts—all are now deceased. Lucinda married Peter Woodring and is now deceased.

Samuel C. Hyler, our subject, was left a lonely little boy of nine years when his mother died, and was then compelled to work around with different farmers, making his own way the best he could, and attending school at rare intervals, but by the time he was 22 years old he had become a capable farmer. He married Mary Ann Barbe, who was of an old Virginia family, but was born in Fairfield County, Ohio. They had 11 children, namely: Margaret, who married (first) John Cicle, and (second) John Koon, and lives at St.

Marys; Elizabeth, who died in infancy; Henry, who was killed at the battle of Murfreesboro during the Civil War; Lucinda, who married Washington Bone, and is now deceased, being survived by one daughter, Rhoda, who is married and lives at Toledo; Mary Jane, who married Ephraim Grandon and lives at Ohio City; Sallie Ann, deceased some 16 years ago, who was thrice married and left one daughter, Edna; Caroline, who married Wesley Bone and resides in Montezuma; Eliza, who married Elza Buxton; Emma, deceased in childhood; Lydia, who married John Buxton—their son, Singleton, operates one of Mr. Hyler's farms; and Samuel R., who married Elizabeth Bingeman, of Kansas, and has four children, one of whom, William, an expert electrician, was for a time in the employ of the government, working on wireless telegraphy in Egypt.

After his first marriage, Mr. Hyler and wife moved to Butler township, Mercer County, where they were among the very early settlers. He bought a farm of 51½ acres on which he lived for one year and then sold it and in 1854 settled in Franklin township, south of Montezuma, and lived on that farm until after the death of his first wife, which occurred July 4, 1890. He then rented that property and built a house on his present farm, which was subsequently destroyed by fire, but was later replaced by the present comfortable residence. He was married (second), February 5, 1893, to Elizabeth Chilcoat, of Fairfield County, a cousin of his first wife.

Mr. Hyler has been vouchsafed an experience permitted to only a favored few of the human family, and from 1818 to 1906 is a long period of time to have lived. He has left old ways, old scenes, and many old associates behind him, and still finds much to enjoy in life, although 88 winters have whitened his locks. When he came to Franklin township it was yet the home of the Indian and wild animals. His reminiscences of the early days here are full of incidents of absorbing interest. Mr. Hyler has "chawed" tobacco since the age of 10 years and it still tastes good to him.

JOHN JACOB BOLLENBACHER

John Jacob Bollenbacher, Jr., treasurer of Liberty township, is one of the substantial farmers of this locality. He owns a fine farm of 80 acres in section 12, on which he resides, and other tracts in the township, his total possessions aggregating 200 acres. He was born in Liberty township, Mercer County, Ohio, July 28, 1863, and is a son of Adam and Christina (Koch) Bollenbacher, both natives of Germany.

Adam Bollenbacher accompanied his parents to America when about 12 years of age and the family has resided in Liberty township ever since, always

maintaining its honorable standing. Our subject's grandfather, George Bollenbacher, was one of the best known pioneers of this township. Adam Bollenbacher, the father, was an extensive farmer and stock-raiser. His death occurred in April 24, 1901. The mother of our subject, who is now in her 63rd year, resides in Liberty township. Of a large family of children, nine survive, as follows: John Jacob, of this sketch; George, of Liberty township; Adam, of Van Wert County; Andrew and Charles, of Liberty township; Mary H., wife of Theodore Baker, of Black Creek township; Christina Caroline, wife of John J. Deitsch, of Liberty township; Frederick Joseph, of Liberty township; and Amos B., of Black Creek township.

John J. Bollenbacher was reared to man's estate in Liberty township and obtained his education in the public schools. His life has been mainly devoted to agricultural pursuits and he is one of the enterprising and representative farmers of the township.

On March 11, 1888, Mr. Bollenbacher was married to Effie B. Strobel, who was born in Liberty township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a daughter of the late Peter Strobel. Mrs. Strobel, who is 80 years of age, resides with her daughter, Mrs. Bollenbacher.

In politics, Mr. Bollenbacher is a stanch Democrat. He assumed the duties of his present office on January 1, 1906, and has become a very popular official. Both he and his wife are members of the Evangelical Association.

T. P. TAYLOR, M. D.

T. P. Taylor, M. D., one of the skilled physicians and surgeons of Celina, was born in Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of the late Dr. James Taylor.

Dr. James Taylor was born in Wayne County, Ohio. He graduated from the Cincinnati Eclectic Medical Institute and engaged in medical practice first in Wayne County, and later at Beaver Dam and through Allen and Hancock counties. Representation being made to him that a fine field for work was open at Portland, Indiana, he started overland for that point, but at that time transportation was difficult and when he reached Celina he was persuaded to settle here, where a physician was needed, instead of going to his intended destination in Indiana. Dr. Taylor continued to practice medicine in Mercer County for over a half century, becoming prominent in his profession and esteemed as a man. He died in September, 1903, aged 82 years and 6 months. During the Civil War he was particularly active in support of the government and was a member of a military committee in Mercer County.

T. P. Taylor completed his literary education at the Ohio Normal Uni-

versity at Ada, and in 1879 entered the Cincinnati Eclectic Medical Institute as had his honored father before him, and was graduated in June, 1881. He entered into practice in connection with his father and so continued until 1888, when he bought a drug store, which he has conducted ever since. He is a member of the American Medical Association and of the Mercer County Medical Society.

In May, 1891, Dr. Taylor was married to Rosa O'Neil, a daughter of John O'Neil, and they have one son, Neil Edward.

Dr. Taylor is a stockholder in the Home Telephone Company and in the Mercer County Building and Loan Association. He is an enterprising, public-spirited citizen, is interested in local politics and has served on the Village Council. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias, the Maccabees and the Masons.

J. V. RICHARDSON

J. V. Richardson, M. D., who is a leading medical practitioner at Fort Recovery, was born in Gibson township, Mercer County, Ohio, February 13, 1851, and is a son of Dr. J. C. and Mary G. Richardson, the former of whom was one of the pioneer physicians at Fort Recovery.

Dr. J. V. Richardson, who is the oldest physician and surgeon, in point of continuous practice, at Fort Recovery, was reared here and received his literary education in the schools of this place. He was prepared for college by his father and in 1869 entered the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati, where he was graduated in 1872. He located for five months at Montezuma, Mercer County, but in September, 1872, settled permanently at Fort Recovery. For several years he was in partnership with his late father, and also with his brother, Dr. David H. Richardson, now of Celina, and Dr. J. W. Blizzard. He carries on a general medical practice, but makes a specialty of surgery, in which he has met with much success. As far back as 1891 he was a very successful operator in case of appendicitis and he is frequently called into consultation with other eminent surgeons in his own State and in Indiana. Personally Dr. Richardson is not disposed to accord himself the skill which his many brother practitioners admire in him, but his reputation has been proven on many occasions to be a just one. He is a member of the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association.

Dr. Richardson was married to Sarah Snyder, a daughter of William and Martha Snyder. They have one daughter, Elva E. Aside from his professional labors, Dr. Richardson is a good citizen, taking part in public-spirited movements and contributing time and attention to matters of public moment to his community.

WILLIAM ROSCOE WEST

William Roscoe West, who owns and operates a fine farm of 95 acres in section 6, Jefferson township, was born in Darke County, Ohio, July 13, 1859, and is a son of Marcus and Martha (Pratt) West.

Marcus West was born in Delaware, but was taken to Pennsylvania in childhood and was reared in that State. In young manhood he came to Darke County with his father, Jonathan West, and there married Martha Pratt, a daughter of James Pratt, a farmer of that section. When William R. West was about three years old, his parents moved to Mercer County, and settled on a farm of 80 acres which is still occupied by his mother. There he was reared and remained until his marriage. His father died February 21, 1905. He was a well-known and highly respected citizen.

On October 15, 1881, William R. West was married to Emma Karzch, who is a daughter of John Karzch, a farmer of Hopewell township. Mr. and Mrs. West have eight children: Ellen, Frank, Lewis, Noah, Floyd, Bryan, Clara and Lucy. Mr. West is serving as school director in his district.

After marriage, Mr. and Mrs. West settled on the farm they have occupied ever since. His resources being limited, his first purchase of land consisted of six acres, to which he gradually added as he could afford it, buying 37 more in the next purchase, then 12½ and later 40 acres, until now he has a farm as large as he can conveniently operate, even with the help of his sturdy sons. Mr. West has reason to fell gratified with what he has accomplished, as it has been entirely the result of his own industry and good management. He has his land in fine condition, and has a comfortable home and substantial barns and outbuildings.

In politics Mr. West is a Democrat. He is a good, reliable, industrious citizen and a man in whom his neighbors repose the greatest confidence.

GEORGE H. DUES

George H. Dues, a prominent farmer and stock-raiser of Butler township, resides on his farm of 76 acres in section 4, and also owns a farm of 90 acres which is situated one and a half miles west of his home farm, making a total of 166 acres of valuable land. Mr. Dues was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, January 8, 1852, and is a son of George and Elizabeth Dues. Further mention of the parents of our subject will be found in the sketch of Barney Dues in this volume.

George Dues, our subject's father, came to Mercer County with his parents in 1854. His mother died shortly after they settled in Butler township,

UPPER ROW—CHILDREN OF MR. AND MRS. JOHN WHITE
LOWER ROW—(Reading from left to right)—HORACE WHITE, JOHN WHITE, MRS. EMMARELDA W. WHITE, MRS. HANNAH W. MOHAT.

MRS. SARAH W. FAUGHT

MRS ROZELLA W. MILLER

and the father, with his children, returned to Cincinnati, where he remained two years, returning then to Butler township, where he located permanently.

Our subject was reared and educated in Butler township and has always had his business interests here. He owns property which is favorably located for general farming and stock-raising and belongs to the substantial farming class of Butler township.

After reaching manhood Mr. Dues was married to Kate Hagedorn and they have had eight children, as follows: Henry; Mary, wife of August Fisher; Edward, Leo, Anthony, Clara and Gregory, all at home; and Frances, the third child, who died aged one year and nine months.

Mr. Dues, like other members of his family, belongs to the Catholic Church. He is a citizen who is held in esteem for his many sterling traits of character. The family is a numerous and leading one in this section.

JOHN WHITE

John White, a leading citizen and representative farmer of Liberty township, who has resided for a number of years upon his well-developed farm of 190 acres, situated in section 27, near Durbin, was born in Scioto County, Ohio, April 5, 1835, and is a son of John and Sylvia (Wyman) White.

According to family traditions, the White family, of which our subject is a member, was founded in America by an ancestor who landed on Plymouth Rock in what is now Massachusetts, having been one of the "Mayflower's" passengers. The name White appears on the list of passengers and there is every reason to suppose that the claim of the family is a just one. From New England a branch of the family removed to New York and in that State John White, the father of our subject, was born and married. Early in the settlement of Scioto County, Ohio, he and his wife settled permanently there, after a short residence in Kentucky. Eleven children were born to our subject's parents, of whom but three are now living, namely: Horace, John and Mrs. Hannah W. Mohat. John White served in the War of 1812. Three of his sons served in the Civil War in defence of the Union: Horace and Asa in the 91st Regiment, Ohio, Vol. Ind., and Nelson in the 100-day service.

John White, the subject of these lines, attended the district schools, the sessions being held in log structures, rudely built, and grew to manhood well trained in agricultural work in all its details. Early in life he became self-supporting and may justly be termed as a self-made man, having accumulated his possessions through his own efforts. His well-cultivated farm is one of value and the family residence is a pleasant, comfortable home.

On October 26, 1856, Mr. White was united in marriage with Emmarelda Wilson, who was born in Jackson County, Ohio, in 1841, and is a daughter of James and Michal (Gilliam) Wilson, and a granddaughter of Jeremiah Gilliam, a ship carpenter by trade, who owned a vessel which was destroyed by the British in the War of 1812. James Wilson, the father of Mrs. White, was born in Kentucky, and his wife was a native of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Mrs. White was reared in Jackson County until the age of six years, when her parents moved to Scioto County and became neighbors of the White family. The children of our subject and wife were as follows: William J., a resident of Stark County, Ohio; Levi A., of Scioto County; Mary A., wife of Daniel C. Roberts, of Dayton, Ohio; George E., of Liberty township; Lenora A., wife of John O. Brock, of Liberty township; and Sarah Eliza, Rozella Adella, Lola I., Edward V. and Clarence V., all deceased.

After marriage, Mr. and Mrs. White continued to reside in Scioto County until 1881, when they removed to Mercer County. With but a short interval, they have resided ever since in Liberty township. When the Rebel general, Morgan, made his famous raid through Southern Ohio, in the Civil War, Mr. White went out, with other good citizens, and assisted in driving the Confederate raiders from the State. He has always been active in politics to the extent of good citizenship, and is identified with the Republican party. For three years during his residence in Madison township, Scioto County, he served as constable.

Mr. White has been a church member since young manhood. During his residence in Madison township, Scioto County, he was prominently identified with the Methodist Protestant Church, for several years serving as class leader and as superintendent of the Sunday-school, and assisted in the building of two churches of that religious body. After coming to Mercer County, both he and his wife united with the Church of God and he is now a trustee of the church in Liberty township. Individually and collectively, this family is held in high esteem in Liberty township.

The golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. White was celebrated at their home on Friday, October 26, 1906, the guests present on this occasion numbering about 90. Among those who came from a distance were the following: Horace White and Mrs. Hannah W. Mohat (brother and sister of our subject), J. Dillon, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. White and L. A. White, of Scioto County; J. O. White, of Columbus; Mr. and Mrs. Daniel C. Roberts, of Dayton; Dr. and Mrs. A. Stephenson, of Celina and Mr. and Mrs. Hickett Redkins, of St. Marys. All of the five surviving children of Mr. and Mrs. White were present, also seven of the nine grandchildren and six of the seven great-grandchildren. The surprise of the occasion was the marriage of their grand-

daughter, Edna White, to David Freeman, Rev. O. A. Harris, of Bluffton, Indiana, performing the ceremony and the grandfather and grandmother of the bride acting, respectively, as groomsman and bridesmaid. After the marriage ceremony, which took place at high noon, all partook of a bountiful dinner. Many valuable presents were received by Mr. and Mrs. White.

A family group picture, taken at the time of the golden wedding, and portraits of two deceased daughters of the family, accompany this sketch.

ANDREW BOLLENBACHER

Andrew Bollenbacher, a prosperous farmer and stock-raiser of Liberty township, residing on his valuable farm of 80 acres in section 12, belongs to an old pioneer family of this locality, which has many substantial representatives in Mercer County. Our subject was born September 2, 1868, in Liberty township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Adam and Christina (Koch) Bollenbacher.

The Bollenbacher family originated in Germany and was founded in Mercer County by George Bollenbacher, the grandfather of our subject. Adam Bollenbacher, the father, was also born in Germany, but spent the greater part of his life in Liberty township, where he became a large farmer and honored citizen. His death took place April 25, 1901, and in that event Liberty township lost a citizen of more than usual worth. He had done much to develope its agricultural resources and had lived an exemplary, worthy life. In politics he was a Democrat. He was a member and a liberal supporter of the Evangelical Association. His widow, who still survives, resides in Liberty township and is a lady who is worthy of the esteem and affection in which she is held.

Andy Bollenbacher was reared on his father's farm and obtained his education in the district schools. His life has been mainly devoted to agricultural pursuits and the excellent condition of his farm testifies to the interest he takes in its management.

On April 27, 1893, Mr. Bollenbacher was married to Catherine Ceilinger, who was born in Germany and when two years old was brought by her parents, Michael and Elizabeth (Kundinger) Ceilinger, to America. They settled in Liberty township, Mercer County, Ohio, where she was reared; later they removed to Muncie, Indiana, where they are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Bollenbacher have seven children, as follows: Elmer E., Romy G., Lolie E., Henry S., Eda C., Victor and Ralph.

Politically Mr. Bollenbacher is identified with the Democratic party.

Although not actively interested in politics, he is a citizen who takes a thoughful interest in public affairs and gives hearty support to movements calculated to improve the public schools.

JAMES CALVIN BRANDON

James Calvin Brandon, for seven years trustee of Jefferson township, resides on his well-improved farm of 80 acres, situated in section 8, and is numbered with the representative men of this locality. Mr. Brandon was born in Mercer County, Ohio, June 6, 1849, and is a son of David and Ella (Hole) Brandon.

James Brandon, the grandfather of James C., was one of the early pioneers of Darke County, Ohio, and there David Brandon was born and reared and acquired a farm of 80 acres. He died in Darke County and his widow married a Mr. Walton and died when James C. Brandon was about 16 years old. The three children of the first marriage were: James Calvin; Lewis, who was accidentally killed at Celina, in 1905; and Mrs. Nancy Jane Pressinger, of Versailles, Ohio.

Since the age of eight years James C. Brandon has lived in Mercer County, and from the age of 10 years, with the exception of two years spent in Michigan, he has lived in Jefferson township. After his marriage, when he was about 24 years old, he worked in a sawmill in Jefferson township, and then moved to Celina, where he worked for two years in the handle factory. He then bought a farm of 80 acres of timberland and for some years the family lived in a round-log cabin on the place. The old cabin still stands in the shadow of the fine new house which was completed in 1903. In 1893 the substantial barn and other farm buildings were erected. Mr. Brandon has met with a very gratifying amount of success. He has not given his entire attention to farming as a part has been devoted to the improving of his stock and he now owns 10 head of fine horses, several blooded ones among them.

In 1873 Mr. Brandon was married to Caroline Beyer, a daughter of John Beyer, a farmer of Butler township, and they have had seven children, of whom Frank died aged two years and Shelby died aged six months. The others are: Mary, who is the wife of Lewis Gaus, of Butler township, and the mother of one child, Mabel Marie; and Charles, William, J. V. and Elsie, all of whom reside at home.

Mr. Brandon is a member of the Christian Church and one of the board of trustees. Politically he is identified with the Democratic party.

EDMUND BRANDTS

EDMUND BRANDTS, an enterprising citizen and leading business man of Celina, secretary and treasurer of The Mersman Bros., Brandts Company, furniture manufacturers, was born at Gladbach, Rhenish Prussia, Germany, in 1879, and is a son of Carl Brandts.

The father of Mr. Brandts is a retired woolen manufacturer of Germany. For many years he carried on a large business but finally retired and sold his mills to his sons, who do an extensive business.

Edmund Brandts was reared and educated in Germany and after he had completed his schooling entered his father's mills and was engaged in the manufacture of woolens until he came to America in November, 1904. In the following February he bought of Henry Lennartz a one-quarter interest in the present business, which was then conducted under the firm name of Lennartz & Mersman Brothers. In May, 1906, the firm became Mersman Brothers & Brandts, Mr. Lennartz having disposed of his remaining interest to the other members of the firm. In September, 1906, The Mersman Bros., Brandts Company was incorporated, of which company Mr. Brandts became secretary and treasurer. This business was established at Celina by the father of Edward H. and Walter J. Mersman and it has been developed into a concern which has customers all over the United States.

On June 6, 1905, Mr. Brandts was united in marriage with Lillie Hirsch, of Celina. Mr. Brandts is a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church at Celina.

J. FRANK LUMB

J. FRANK LUMB, who for a period of more than 28 years past has held a professorship in the Ohio State School for the Blind at Columbus, resides at his beautiful country home, "White Hall," in Center township, Mercer County.

Mr. Lumb was born at St. Marys, Auglaize County, Ohio, August 9, 1854, and is a son of John and Mary (McKinnie) Lumb and a grandson of Abram Lumb, who was the first of the family in the United States, locating at Zanesville, Ohio, where he was prominent as a woolen manufacturer. Abram Lumb, who was a near relative of the Duke of Wellington, came from Yorkshire, England.

John Lumb, father of our subject was born in Zanesville, Muskingum County, Ohio, and supplemented a common-school education with a course in Dennison University at Granville, Ohio. He then engaged in teaching a number of years. Subsequently he moved to Dayton, Ohio, thence to St.

Marys, where he opened what was known as the "Lock Store" on the bank of the canal. In 1854 he came to Center township, Mercer County, and purchased what has since been known as the Lumb farm. Here he lived until his death, January 17, 1897, at the good old age of 82 years. His wife's death followed in October of the same year. His wife, Mary McKinnie in maiden life, was born at Zanesville, Ohio, and was a daughter of Josiah and Elizabeth (Smelzer) McKinnie, the former of Highland Scotch parentage and the latter of Pennsylvania German. Mr. McKinnie came to Ohio from Franklin County, Pennsylvania, locating in Zanesville, where he rose to prominence as a citizen and merchant, being regarded as a leader who shaped the policies and largely directed the affairs of that city. Mr. and Mrs. John Lumb became the parents of the following children: Robert, who died in Andersonville Prison in July, 1863; Abram, who lives on the home farm with our subject; John H., who died at an early age; Mary, who died at three years of age; Julius, who died aged six years; and J. Frank. John Lumb was a Republican in politics, but never aspired to political preferment. He and his wife were members of the Baptist Church at Neptune.

J. Frank Lumb was six weeks old when brought by his parents to Center township, and his present farm has been his home ever since. He was reared here and entered school at the age of six years. He was permitted to enjoy but three years of school life in the manner of the average boy, for at the age of nine years he was stricken with blindness as a result of scarlet fever. At the age of 12 years he entered the Ohio State School for the Blind at Columbus, from which he was graduated in June, 1874. He then entered Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio, in the meantitme teaching music throughout Mercer and Van Wert counties during his vacations. On June 19, 1878, he accepted a position as teacher in the primary department of the Ohio State School for the Blind, and has since been identified with this institution, having in June, 1906, been selected for the 29th consecutive term. At the present time he is serving as professor of history and literature. During the administration of Governor Campbell, he was tendered the superintendency of the institution and was strongly urged to accept by the governor, whose personal friend he was, but he declined as the additional duties would have prevented his giving his usual attention to his aged parents, who always came first in his mind and heart. It was for them that he built, in 1884, one of the largest and most beautiful country homes in Mercer County, planning the details of its construction and arrangement himself, and even planning the beautiful lawn with its walks, trees and shrubbery. The house contains 10 rooms of unusual size, which are finished in hardwood—some in walnut, others in cherry and some in white ash. His mother's room is sacredly kept the same in furnishings and arrangement as it was during her lifetime. The

faculty of the institution gave Mr. Lumb's country residence the name of "White Hall," after that of Cardinal Wolsey, the English statesman, because of a certain similarity in the two men. Mr. Lumb was undoubtedly due for appointment as superintendent of the school by Governor Pattison in 1906, but the Governor was cut short in his great career before the appointment was made. Mr. Lumb has made it a rule to return to his country home at least once a month, has never missed voting at a State or National election, and has missed but two local elections during the 28 years he has taught in Columbus. Some years ago in a public address he made the statement that his trips to and from Columbus represented over 50,000 miles of travel, or more than twice the circumference of the world. At the present time it would be nearly three times the distance around the world.

Mr. Lumb was married in May, 1901, to Lucy A. Ziegler, of Columbus, Ohio, where she had taught first in the public schools and later in the State School for the Blind. She was born and reared in that city and is a daughter of Nicholas and Elizabeth (Bugh) Ziegler. Politically, Mr. Lumb is a stalwart Democrat. He has been a candidate for office but once. At the death of Judge Beckman, he became a candidate for the office of probate judge, but withdrew before the election, because of the serious illness of his mother, who died shortly afterward. Religiously Mr. Lumb is a member of the Congregational Church. He is a member of Celina Lodge, Knights of Pythias. Mr. Lumb has but one wish to express, and that is to return to "White Hall" when his public life is ended, and spend his declining years in the happy companionship of his estimable wife and his lifelong friends.

MRS. HENRIETTA VARWIG

Mrs. Henrietta Varwig, a respected and esteemed resident of Jefferson township, lives on her well-improved farm of 164 acres, located in section 7. She is the widow of the late Dietrich Richard Varwig, who was a very highly considered farmer of this township. Mrs. Varwig was born April 22, 1849, in Hanover, Germany, and is a daughter of Frank and Katrina (Varwig) Wanker.

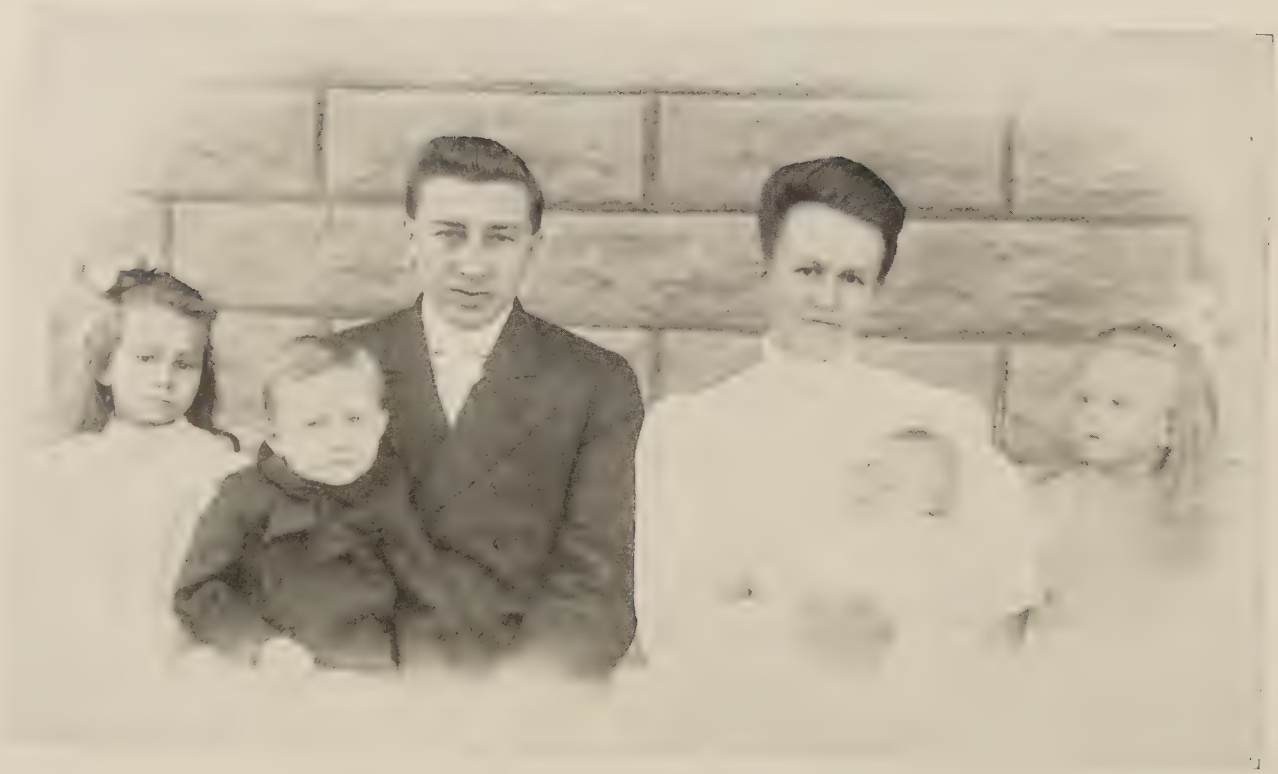
The parents of Mrs. Varwig emigrated to America in 1854, when she was a child of five years. They settled at New Bremen, Auglaize County, Ohio, where they remained a year and a half. In the old country, the father had worked in a salt factory, but the wages had been too small to permit of his accumulating much capital, and Mrs. Varwig has heard her mother say that when the little family reached New Bremen the sum of 15 cents was their sole capital! They found there good, kind, German hearts, however, and Mr.

Wanker found employment in a pork packing establishment until he could select a piece of land on which to found a home. This proved to be a tract of 40 acres in the woods in Shelby County, and the family took up its residence in a little, old log cabin. There they remained for four years, undergoing many hardships. The father was only able to get 10 of his 40 acres cleared in the four years he lived on the place, and then found a chance to sell out. He bought the farm for $400, and sold it for $925. He then purchased a farm in Washington township, Mercer County, for which he paid $1,000. It is very interesting to thus trace the prosperity of some of the old families and see how industry and economy are rewarded.

Mrs. Varwig was reared by a good mother and taught all the thrifty ways for which the German housewives are noted. When she was 21 years of age, she was married (first) to John Maier, who had also been born in Germany. Mr. Maier died on January 26, 1885. They had seven children, the two who still live being: William, who owns a farm of 100 acres; and Mrs. Mena Getz, who has these children—Lizzie, Minnie, Annie, John and Henry. Mr. Maier left a farm of 146 acres to his family.

On January 12, 1886, Mrs. Maier was united in marriage with Dietrich Richard Varwig. Mr. Varwig was born May 27, 1858, in Kirchspiel Disson, Amt Iburg, Hanover, Germany, and came to America in 1880. He joined an uncle who lived in Washington township, Mercer County, where he worked one year and later worked for Fritz Rabe and Valentine Fortman, in the same neighborhood. From the latter's farm he went to a suburb of Chicago, where he worked on a railroad as a section foreman. On November 11, 1885, he came back to Mercer County and entered the employ of Mrs. Maier, the lady he subsequently married. Five children were born to them, three of whom, two sons and a daughter, are deceased. The surviving children are Ida and Fritz. He was also survived by sisters and brothers, namely: Mrs. Barthold, of Chicago; Mrs. Bernard Niehaus and Mrs. Fritz Brune, of Celina; Christian, of Dayton, Ohio; and Heinrich, of Cincinnati.

In 1888 Mr. and Mrs. Varwig bought the present farm which was then all timber-land. They worked hard, cleared it and made a very fine property of it. In 1900 they built the substantial red barn, at a cost of $1,000 and a granary that cost $300, and in 1903 erected the handsome frame residence at a cost of $1,300. It is one of the most comfortable homes in this part of the township. Mr. Varwig did not live very long to enjoy its possession, a sad accident occurring to him on February 27, 1903, which caused his death 12 hours later. Briefly stated, the disaster was as follows: While assisting in repairing his wind pump, a heavy block of wood fell from the scaffolding above, striking him on the head and rendering him unconscious. His faithful wife, who was standing near, ran to his assistance and in a very short



MR. AND MRS. JOHN ZENZ AND FAMILY

RESIDENCE OF JOHN ZENZ

time had him in a carriage, conveying him to Celina to see a physician. The painful operation of sewing up the wound in his head greatly exhausted him, and after reaching home and being tenderly cared for he passed into sleep and never awakened again on earth.

Mr. Varwig was a most excellent man, a hard worker, a kind husband and father and an accommodating neighbor. He was respected by all who knew him. He was a worthy member of the Lutheran Church, to which religious body Mrs. Varwig also belongs.

JOHN ZENZ

John Zenz, a well-known citizen of Sharpsburg, a general merchant and dealer in farm implements, was born at Sharpsburg, Mercer County, Ohio, October 12, 1876, and is a son of George and Barbara (Friedman) Zenz.

Both parents of our subject were born in Germany. The father accompanied his mother and step-father to America, when he was a child of seven years. They settled on a farm in Lorain County, Ohio, 12 miles from Cleveland, and there George Zenz was reared. After his marriage he came to Mercer County and in 1867 settled in Gibson township, where he bought 63 acres of land. He had established himself in a mercantile business in 1862, which he operated until 1885, when his wife took charge of the store and he devoted his atttention to farming. He continued to acquire land until he owned 430 acres which he so divided that each of his three sons received a fine farm. The three children of George and Barbara Zenz were: George, deceased in 1904 at the age of 39 years, who married Mary Shafer and is survived by four children, residents of Gibson township; Peter, residing on his valuable 154-acre farm in Gibson township, who married Rosina Plas and has three children; and John, who is the subject of this sketch.

John Zenz attended school at Sharpsburg until he was 13 years of age, although he was only 10 years old when he began a little business enterprise of his own, this being the running of a huckster wagon, which he continued, off and on, for some four years. As soon as he left school he began to assist his father in the store and then went to work for his father on the farm. When about 19 years of age he left the farm and devoted himself entirely to assisting his mother in the store and continued to help her until 1903, when she retired and he took full charge. He carries a large stock of goods and they are so well selected that he enjoys patronage from a radius of 20 miles, having a large trade. His excellent and varied stock, combined with his

honorable and straight-forward methods of dealing, have secured him public confidence. He enjoys a large trade in farm implements and machinery.

In 1899 Mr. Zenz was married to Rosa Brandwie, a daughter of Bernard Brandwie, and they have four children—Clara, Martha, Otto and Richard. Mr. Zenz and family belong to St. Paul's Catholic Church at Sharpsburg. A group picture of Mr. and Mrs. Zenz and their family, and a view of their large cement block residence, which Mr. Zenz erected in 1905, are shown on pages in proximity to this.

BARNEY DUES

Barney Dues, a prominent farmer and extensive raiser of fine cattle and stock, resides on his valuable farm of 162 acres, situated in section 4, Butler township. He was born April 18, 1853, at Cincinnati, Ohio, and is a son of George and Elizabeth Dues.

The parents of Mr. Dues were born in Germany but were married in America, the father being 28 years of age when he emigrated from the old country. He located in Butler township, Mercer County, Ohio, when our subject was one year old. In the same year his wife died and he then returned to Cincinnati, where he had previously lived, and where he remained for two years longer, returning then to Butler township, having been married a second time while residing in Cincinnati.

Barney Dues was reared from childhood in Butler township and attended the district schools. He has always been engaged in agricultural pursuits and has the reputation of being one of the township's most successful farmers. In 1890 he added to his activity by embarking in a sawmill business, erecting a large mill on his own farm, and for a number of seasons he has run two threshing machines. He has been one of the leading stockmen in this section, paying a great deal of attention to raising Red Polled cattle and thorough-bred hogs. He has a substantial residence and excellent farm buildings of all kinds and his farm presents every evidence of thrift and prosperity.

Mr. Dues was married in early manhood to Elizabeth Windker, who is a daughter of Henry Windker, and they have 10 children, all of whom are living, making a large and happy circle of kindred, as follows: George and Kate, both of whom live at home; Rose, who married Joseph P. Brown and has one child; and Bernard, Herman, Joseph, August, Pauline, Conrad, and Helen. All have enjoyed good educational advantages and are numbered with the respected and popular members of the society of their neighborhood.

Mr. Dues is one of the leading members of St. Mary's Catholic Church at Philothea and was formerly one of the board of directors. He is a good,

intelligent, enterprising citizen, who is awake to the business advantages of his section and takes an interest in adding to its importance. He has served on the School Board.

DANIEL BROCK

Daniel Brock, who owns and operates a fine farm of 120 acres located in section 33, Gibson township, was born in Preble County, Ohio, March 28, 1832, and is a son of John and Margaret Brock.

John Brock was born in Lexington, Virginia, and was a son of Frederick Brock. After reaching manhood, he moved to Preble County, Ohio, and married Margaret Sharp, a daughter of Daniel Sharp, one of the pioneers of Darke County. He afterwards moved to Darke County, where both he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives.

Daniel Brock was reared and educated in Darke County, where his parents moved when he was between four and five years of age. In 1856 he bought a farm in Mercer County, but did not move to this county until 1870, since which year he has made his home in Mercer County. Mr. Brock enlisted in the 152nd Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., and served during the last five months of the Civil War.

Mr. Brock was married July 31, 1859, to Jemima M. Weaver, a daughter of William Weaver. They have had six children, all of whom are living, namely: John William, who lives one and a half miles south of his father's farm, in Darke County, his father's place being on the county line between Darke and Mercer counties—he is married and has two children: Amos Calvin, who is married and carries on his 160-acre farm in Darke County; Harvey Marion, who is married and resides near Celina; Abraham Lincoln, who is married and lives in Darke County; Andrew Jackson Brock, who is married and resides in Jay County, Indiana; and Emma Alice, who married Jacob Miller and resides on the home farm. Mrs. Brock died in January, 1906. Mr. Brock has served as supervisor of Gibson township, and also as school director several terms. He is a Republican in politics.

WILLIAM ROBERT ARMANTROUT

William Robert Armantrout, a prominent farmer of Recovery township, residing on his 115-acre farm in section 18, and also owning 40 acres of land in section 23, Noble township, Jay County, Indiana, which he uses principally for pasture, was born in August, 1861, on the farm where he now resides. He is a son of Nelson and Mary Ann (Anderson) Armantrout and

a grandson of James Armantrout, who moved from Champaign County, Ohio, to Jay County, Indiana, where he purchased a farm, in Noble township, and lived until his death.

Nelson Armantrout was born in Champaign County, Ohio, and when still a small child accompanied his father to Jay County, Indiana, where he was reared and educated, remaining on the farm until after his marriage. He married Mary Ann Anderson, a daughter of David Anderson, and a granddaughter, on her mother's side, of Alexander Scott. Alexander Scott and David Anderson, his son-in-law, together entered 80 acres of land, which is part of the farm in Recovery township now owned by our subject. Both are now deceased and buried on this farm in the old family graveyard. Nelson Armantrout and his wife were the parents of three children: William Robert; Zerilda Edith, who married Robert Adney and died in March, 1896, leaving two children—Lola Dell and William Nelson; and Jane Adell, who married Robert Adney after the death of her sister, and lives in Noble township, Jay County, Indiana. Mr. Armantrout died in May, 1902, and his wife, in 1898.

William Robert Armantrout was reared and educated in Recovery township and has always been engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was married December 25, 1902, to Elizabeth DeHays, a daughter of John DeHays, one of the pioneers of Mercer County, who is a resident of Recovery township.

FRANK P. MILLER

Frank P. Miller, one of the representative and successful agriculturists of Hopewell township, whose homestead of 160 acres in section 29 is known as "Pleasant View Farm," belongs to one of the township's prominent pioneer families. Mr. Miller was born on this farm, March 13, 1854, and is a son of John and Emily (Lincoln) Miller.

The father of Mr. Miller was born in Pennsylvania, but his mother's people came from New York. In young manhood John Miller became a resident of Richland County, Ohio, whence he came to Mercer County, settling on the farm which is now owned by our subject. He was a very early settler here and was concerned in the development of this locality. He was widely known, served many years as a justice of the peace and was held in the highest esteem by his fellow-citizens. He was one of the strong men of his times, honorable and upright and worthy in every relation of life. He died in 1891, having survived his wife since 1875.

Frank P. Miller spent his boyhood like other youths of his day in this section, plenty of hard work with a little schooling mixed in. Mr. Miller has

always shown his interest in the public schools and has given support to all enterprises calculated to increase their efficiency and make them practical. He has always given particular attention to farming and has met with very satisfying success in this line. His land is so favorably situated that its name of "Pleasant View" precisely describes it. Mr. Miller carries on general farming and some good stock can be seen in his pastures.

Mr. Miller was united in marriage with Margaret Smith, who was born in Liberty township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a daughter of the late George Smith. They have four children, namely: Gertrude A., Lurilla O., Clarence F. and Richard F. The eldest daughter married Asa Meister, a business citizen of Celina, and the second one is the wife of Walter Fetters, of Hopewell township.

For some years Mr. Miller served as a justice of the peace in Hopewell township, and also as school director. With his family he belongs to the Evangelical Association. Politically he is a Republican.

MARTYN TAYLOR, M. D.

Martyn Taylor, M. D., a substantial citizen and a leading physician and surgeon at Fort Recovery, was born at Lynn, Greenup County, Kentucky, January 28, 1869, and is a son of Dr. Martyn and Lydia Jane (Draper) Taylor.

The father of our subject was born on the Adirondack Mountains, New York, and was a son of Eliphalet and Lucy Jane (Ballou) Taylor. The former, a solidier in the Revolutionary War, distinguished himself at the battle of Bennington. The grandmother of Dr. Taylor was a descendant of Maturin Ballou, who came from Devonshire, England, to Rhode Island, in 1640. The mother of the late President Garfield was a daughter of Hosea Ballou, of the same family.

The father of the subject of this sketch was orphaned at 18 years of age, at which time he was a resident of Adrian, Michigan. He had enjoyed common-school advantages only, but was determined to gain a medical education, and with this end in view continued teaching school until he had acquired sufficient capital to enter the medical department of the University of Michigan. He was graduated there, receiving his degree in the spring of 1852. During the Civil War he served from September 12, 1861, until May 28, 1863, in Company E, 33rd Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and then became acting assistant surgeon until the close of the war, being present at many battles. He died at Sciotoville, Ohio, March 3, 1906.

In 1853 Dr. Martyn Taylor, Sr., married Lydia Jane Draper, and with

his bride moved to Danby, Illinois, and in 1860, to Scioto County, Ohio. Three children were born to this union, the subject of this sketch being the youngest. The mother still resides at Sciotoville.

Dr. Martyn Taylor, of Fort Recovery, lived in Kentucky until he was 10 years old, and then came to Mercer County; after living here one year, he moved to Scioto County, where he was mainly educated, being graduated from the Sciotoville High School. He then entered the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati and was graduated in medicine in 1896. During his younger years, while preparing for collegiate duties, he taught school. Dr. Taylor located immediately in Mercer County and there are few professional men in this part of the State who more fully enjoy the confidence of the public. He has been very successful as a physician and surgeon and frequently is called to other cities on consultation. He has invested in property at Fort Recovery and all his interests are centered here.

On December 29, 1897, Dr. Taylor was married to Nora E. Zwickert, a daughter of Augustus Zwickert, of Sciotoville, and they have one daughter, Helen M., who was born October 4, 1900.

Dr. Taylor is a member of Fort Recovery Lodge, No. 539, F. & A. M., and also of the Knights of the Golden Eagle. He is a man of genial manner and engaging personality, is extremely generous and charitable and can always be called upon to assist in public-spirited movements of a reputable character. His professional skill, as well as his frank, pleasant manner, has attracted to him many admirers.

HENRY KRAMER

Henry Kramer, a dealer in grain, hardware and groceries at Maria Stein, is one of the leading business men of Marion township, where he was born January 16, 1862.

Mr. Kramer was reared on his father's farm in Marion township, and made it his home until 1881. He then took charge of the mail route between St. John's and Maria Stein and at the same time had charge of the express office at Maria Stein, running the express wagon until December, 1885, when he retired from the mail route. While he was mail carrier he was obliged to endure many hardships from exposure. There was no depot erected until 1881 and he was obliged to take shelter under trees while waiting for the train, which was very often late. In September, 1884, he took charge of the freight office of the Toledo, Delphos & Burlington Railroad at Maria Stein, which office he held until April, 1893. In September, 1887, he purchased the property of J. Rumping; consisting of a house, two lots and a stable, paying

$1,300 for the same. He moved upon the place the following December, his aunt, Gertrude Kramer, acting as housekeeper for him. He began buying grain for an outside concern in 1886, storing it in sacks until he had a car-load. In 1891 he formed a partnership with his brother, John M. Kramer, and started a machine shop. They then erected a warehouse, and engaged in the lumber business on a small scale. His trade increased and in 1895 he alone purchased 55,000 bushels of grain. The firm handled 100 car-loads of grain a year, and besides this Mr. Kramer carried on his lumber and hardware business. He dissolved partnership with his brother in 1899.

Mr. Kramer was married May 8, 1889, to Senora Walck, who was born June 11, 1868. Four children were born of this union: Joseph, born May 18, 1890, who died in infancy; Beda, born July 8, 1892; Mary, born February 24, 1895, who died the same day; and Stella, born June 1, 1896. Mr. Kramer is a stanch Democrat and with his wife is a member of the St. John's Catholic Church.

Andrew Walck, father of the wife of our subject, was born September 22, 1837, in Stark County, Ohio. He went to Iowa when a young man and engaged as a general laborer. After returning to Ohio, he located at Middlepoint, Van Wert County. In 1864 he enlisted in the army and was discharged in 1865, thereafter receiving a pension of $12 per month until his death, which occurred in 1893. He married Louisa Staples, who died in 1871, leaving four children: Kate, Frances, Senora and William. Mrs. Kramer, whose mother died when she was about three years old, lived with her father until her marriage with our subject.

ALPHEUS BREWER

Alpheus Brewer, who has been a resident of Mendon for several years, is a prominent and influential citizen of Union township. He was born September 17, 1849, in Auglaize County, Ohio, and is the son of Simon and Elizabeth (Powell) Brewer and a grandson of Isam Brewer.

Isam Brewer was born in the South and became one of the pioneers of Clinton County, Ohio. His wife was also a native of the South. They were the parents of six sons and four daughters, as follows: Nicholas; Lewis; David; Thomas; Simon; Delaney, who married O. V. Casperson and resided in Auglaize County; Celia, now deceased, who was married when very young to James Robbins, of Auglaize County, being the first of the family to locate in that county, which was then a part of Mercer County; Sinia, deceased, who was the wife of Lewis Driscoll; Maria, who married Lewis Driscoll, after her sister's death; and Rebecca Ann, who is the wife of John Driscoll.

Simon Brewer, father of our subject, was born in Clinton County, Ohio, March 8, 1816, and there grew to manhood. In 1837 he moved to Auglaize County and settled in Salem township, where he entered land to which he continued to add from time to time. He was married to Elizabeth Powell, who was born in Virginia, August 30, 1823, and came to Ohio with her parents at an early age. Mr. and Mrs. Brewer had five daughters and four sons: Sarah A., the wife of J. M. Watts, who was born and resides in Union township; Syrena A., who married J. B. Kennedy, of Lima, Ohio; Alpheus, our subject; Benjamin Franklin, a farmer of Van Wert County, Ohio, who married (first) Mary Rider, of Mercer County, and (second) Wealthy Griffis, a resident of Auglaize County; Hugh H., a farmer of Auglaize County, who married Sallie Albert; Mira, the wife of W. W. Anderson, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Union township, Mercer County; Carrie, who married B. W. Griffis, of Sidney, Ohio; Isam, who died aged 18 years; and Laura, who married W. F. Hayer and lives east of Mendon. Mrs. Brewer died September 1, 1887, and Mr. Brewer died December 25, 1874, aged 58 years.

Alpheus Brewer was reared and educated in Salem township, Auglaize County, attending the district schools of the township. He has for a number of years been a resident of Mendon, and is at present manager of the C. B. Collins farm, which consists of 288 acres of productive land. He was married December 19, 1872, to Mary E. Davis, a daughter of Justin B. and Susan (Murlin) Davis, and they are the parents of four children: Celia, Orin A., Albert and Dollie, all of whom have attended the Mendon High School, from which all have graduated but Dollie, who will finish in 1907. Celia married Walter Barber, June 11, 1896, and resides on the old Barber place; they have four children: Vaughn, Kenneth, Janice and Keeth. Orin A. married Blanch Severns, a daughter of William Severns, and has three children: Beatrice, William Burdett and Mary Leah. Albert, who is single, is engineer of Station No. 208, Albany, Indiana.

Justin B. Davis, Mrs. Brewer's father, was born March 18, 1825, in Miami County, Ohio, and settled in Mercer County in 1833, locating in Union township. He died April 20, 1900, aged 75 years. Three daughters and one son were born to Mr. and Mrs. Davis, namely: Sarah, residing in Union township, who married S. S. McGee, and after his death married W. A. Archer; Mary E., wife of our subject; Ella, who married Byron E. Wollam and lived and died at St. Marys, and S. S., residing on the Davis home place in Center township, who married Clarissa Wines, now deceased; his mother, who lives with him, is in her 75th year, her birth having occurred in 1832. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Brewer, Samuel Davis, was born in Ontario County, New York, and died in 1868, aged 82 years; he was a soldier

WILLIAM R. TAYLOR, M. D.

MRS. JENNOLA K. TAYLOR

of the War of 1812. The great-grandfather, Frank Davis, was killed in the battle of Cowpens during the Revolutionary War.

Mr. Brewer and all the Brewers with one exception are Democrats. He is a member of the Mendon Lodge, No. 586, F. & A. M., and also of Mendon Lodge, No. 750, I. O. O. F.

WILLIAM R. TAYLOR, M. D.

William R. Taylor, M. D., one of the leading physicians at Fort Recovery, was born February 3, 1850, in Switzerland County, Indiana, and is a son of William Penn and Elizabeth (Hannis) Taylor, and a grandson of James N. Taylor, who, although not a native of the United States, was long very prominent in public life.

James N. Taylor was born in the northern part of Ireland and came alone to America at the age of 12 years. For some years the circumstances of his life kept him in New Orleans, but later he went to Washington City, where he subsequently became chief clerk in the Treasury Department, a position he filled for 12 years. His public services closed during the administration of President Jackson. Later he resided at Philadelphia and at Pittsburg, but in 1816 he pushed into what was then the far West, locating in Switzerland County, Indiana, where he bought 800 acres of land. His eldest son, James Dunlap Taylor, was later a man of great prominence; he became the editor of the Cincinnati *Dollar Times,* and through his instrumentality that paper became an important organ. The father of Dr. Taylor was born on the old family estate, in Switzerland County, Indiana, known as the "Walnut Ridge Farm," on May 20, 1822.

On the above mentioned farm our subject was reared and his first schooling was obtained in the district schools in his native neighborhood. He taught school for two years and was then appointed county superintendent when but 22 years of age, in which capacity he served for two years. He then entered Urbana University, at Urbana, Champaign County, Ohio, and took a full scientific course during his stay of four years and three months, for a portion of this period being a member of the faculty. After leaving college he continued to teach for three years in Champaign County and in the meantime studied medicine. His brother, Dr. D. H. Taylor, was a practicing physician in Noble County, Ohio, and also the proprietor of a drug-store, and the younger brother joined him and while clerking in the drug store continued his medical studies. Subsequently he entered the Miami Medical College, at Cincinnati, where he remained two years, and then assisted his brother in his practice in Noble County for a year, later spending one term at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at Baltimore, Maryland, from which he was grad-

uated in 1884. He then purchased his brother's business at Summerfield, Noble County, and continued in practice there until 1894, when he joined his brother, who had built up a large and prosperous practice in Wheeling, West Virginia. The latter is a member of the State Board of Medical Examiners and is also sheriff of Ohio County, West Virginia.

Dr. Taylor continued in partnership with his brother at Wheeling for one year and practiced alone for nine years more, when he came to Fort Recovery, locating in this place in April, 1901. He was president of the Ohio County Medical Society and was highly regarded as a physician there while a resident of Wheeling. Since coming to Fort Recovery he has easily built up a practice and stands with the leading practitioners of the place. He is a member of the Mercer County Medical Society and of the American Medical Association, and is a valued contributor to medical literature.

At Summerfield, Ohio, December 24, 1885, Dr. Taylor was united in marriage with Jennola Kean, a daughter of John N. Kean, and they have three children, viz.: Glen B., who is a student of veterinary surgery; Beulah and Maurice. Fraternally Dr. Taylor is a Mason. Portraits of Dr. and Mrs. Taylor accompany this sketch.

DAVID GREEN

David Green, a leading agriculturist of Gibson township, whose farm of 137¾ acres is located in section 26, was born May 6, 1859, in Crawford County, Ohio, and is a son of Frederick and Louisa (Lutz) Green, and a grandson of Frederick Green, who was a resident of Crawford County, where he died on the old homestead.

Frederick Green, the father of our subject, was born in Germany, and came to this country when three years old with his parents, who settled in Crawford County when the country was still in a wild and unsettled state. Mr. Green was reared on his father's farm in Crawford County and after his marriage lived there until 1876 engaged in farming. He then moved to Mercer County, Ohio, and located on the farm now occupied by his son David. He had purchased a farm of 318 acres in Gibson township prior to his removal to Mercer County, and it was here he lived until 1903, when he sold the farm to his son David and retired from active work. He is now a resident of Fort Recovery.

David Green spent his boyhood days in Crawford County, and was 17 years old when his father moved to Mercer County and settled on the farm he now owns. In 1881 Mr. Green bought a farm of 80 acres in section 26, Gibson township, and after his marriage moved to this farm, on which he

made many improvements in the way of tiling and buildings, including a fine large barn. He sold the farm in 1903 to John Schmidt and purchased of his father his present farm, of which he already owned 57½ acres. Mr. Green is engaged in general farming and also raises considerable stock, such as hogs and cattle. He also has a fine orchard of five acres, and raises grapes, plums, peaches, cherries, apples, etc.

On April 10, 1882, Mr. Green was married to Mary Breymier, a daughter of Michael Breymier. They had one child, Benjamin, who lives in Crawford County. Mrs. Green died in 1887. On September 22, 1887, Mr. Green was married to Rosa Boltz, a daughter of Jacob Boltz. They became the parents of the following children: Edna, Lawrence, Oscar, Ida, Maggie, Clarence, Eva and Louisa. Mr. Green was formerly a member of the Lutheran Church. His family are members of Trinity Lutheran Church of Fort Recovery.

HENRY BRANDENBERG BENNETT

Henry Brandenberg Bennett, one of the representative citizens and prosperous farmers of Franklin township, resides on his well-improved farm of 88½ acres in section 21. He was born August 15, 1840, in Granville township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Landon and Elizabeth (Grant) Bennett.

The founder of the Bennett family in Ohio was Abel Bennett, the grandfather of Henry B., who was born in Virgina, married there and reared 10 children, namely: Samuel, John, James, David, Landon, Nancy, Phebe, Sophia, Mary and Elizabeth. The first wife of Abel Bennett died in Virginia in 1813 and he married a second time, and three more children were born after the family had settled in Indiana, namely: Moses, Washington and Sarah. All have since passed away, many of them leaving representatives who uphold the honorable old name.

Landon Bennett, father of our subject, was the youngest child of his father's first marriage and he was born in Virginia in 1808. He was five years old when his mother died and shortly afterward his father removed with his children to Cincinnati, but not finding that locality what they desired the family went by wagon to Hancock County, Indiana, where Abel Bennett bought a farm on which he lived during the rest of his life. At the age of 21 years, Landon Bennett was married in Butler County, Ohio, to Elizabeth Grant, who was born in 1806 and died in February, 1871. She was a daughter of Alexander and Polly (Boyd) Grant, pioneers of Mercer County. Alexander Grant was born in Virginia and moved to Ohio in early manhood, marrying in Butler County. In 1833 he entered 400 acres of land in Mercer

County, east of Fort Recovery, and was one of the earliest settlers there. The children of Alexander Grant and wife were: James, Jonathan, Alexander, Marcus, Hezekiah, Elizabeth, Eva, Sallie, Rebecca, Amy, Rachel and a child that died in infancy.

The children of Landon Bennett and wife were: Mary, who married Ellis Myers—both now deceased; Elizabeth, deceased, who was the wife of Eben Tyler; Lydia, who married Jacob Golder—both now deceased; Rebecca, deceased, who was the wife of John T. Miller; Henry B.; and Alexander G., who married Sarah B. Thorpe. The first two named were born in Butler County, Ohio; all the others were born in Mercer County.

After his marriage, Landon Bennett started to keep house in a place he rented on Paddy's Run. He was a cooper by trade and he had a shop in his home, where, by the help of his very capable wife, he was able to turn out three barrels a day, which commanded $1 apiece. In those days money was hardly earned, but Mr. Bennett seems to have been able to accumulate enough to have entered 160 acres of land in Mercer County, the transaction taking place in 1834. It was situated in Granville township, near Fort Recovery, on the Wabash River. Here he built a round-log house, which he subsequently replaced with a hewn-log one and there the rest of his life was spent, his death occurring in May, 1866.

Henry B. Bennett remained at home until his marriage, assisting in the management of the farm and attending the local schools. In 1863 he was married to Sarah Maria Milligan, a daughter of Samuel and Ann Maria (Palmer) Milligan. The father of Mrs. Bennett was born in Ohio and was a son of William Milligan, who was born in Maryland. The latter came to Ohio at an early day and settled in Fairfield County, where he reared nine children, his youngest son being Samuel. Samuel Milligan married (first) Ann Maria Palmer, who died in 1844, leaving one child, Sarah Maria, the wife of our subject. Later, Mr. Milligan married Louise Tabler, who died after the birth of one son, William H. Mr. Milligan married (third) Rebecca Gessell, and they had 11 children, namely: John E. (deceased), Margaret A., Amy F. (deceased), James, Joseph, Jane (deceased), Jessie, Louisa, Orville, Araminta and Ira.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennett have seven children and in their naming Mr. Bennett has shown his loyalty to his own country, having given them all the beautiful names of the States of the Union. They are as follows: Nevada, who is the wife of J. J. Beauchamp and the mother of five children; Dakota, who married Anna Mannering and resides at Mondon, Ohio; and Minnesota, Alaska, Arizona, Delaware and Vermont, all of whom reside at home. All of the sons are intelligent young men who have made successful teachers.

Several years after the death of his father, Mr. Bennett purchased the

old home farm from the other heirs, but he sold the property at a later date and in 1877 bought his present valuable farm, 88½ acres of which lie along Lake Mercer. Both gas and oil have been found here but not in sufficient quantities to make their development very profitable. Mr. Bennett devotes his land to general farming and stockraising, giving the most of his attention to corn and hay and to hogs. He is numbered with the township's successful agriculturists.

Mr. Bennett has always taken an intelligent interest in public matters where township affairs were in question and on numerous occasions he has been elected to office, having served as constable for some time and for five years he was assessor. He was elected infirmary director and served in this office for some six years, making a very efficient and capable member of the board. Mr. Bennett has been identified with the Masonic fraternity since 1865 and belongs to the Royal Arch Chapter. He and his wife, and all of his children but two, are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

ALBERT MERSMAN

Albert Mersman, who is a director of The Mersman Bros., Brandts Company, of Celina, manufacturers of dining tables, and who holds the position of foreman of the shipping department, was born at Kendallville, Indiana, October 16, 1880, and is a son of J. B. and Mary (Maag) Mersman, the former a native of Putnam County, Ohio, who is now engaged in a lumber and sawmill business in Arkansas.

The subject of this sketch was educated at Ottoville, Ohio, and assisted his father in the planing and sawmill business at that place and was also employed in the table factory that his father established in Celina. When the present company was organized he bought stock in it and is now a member of the board of directors.

Albert Mersman was married June 24, 1903, to Norah Fortman, of Celina, and has two children, Thomas and Mary. Mr. and Mrs. Mersman are members of the Catholic Church.

GEORGE RAMMELL

George Rammel, a representative farmer of Granville township, where he owns a fine farm of 195 acres, with residence located in section 32, was born at Wendelin, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Joseph and Anna Mary (Erlbeck) Rammel.

The father of our subject was one of a family of seven children born to his parents and the only one to come to America. He was born in one of the small provinces of Germany and grew up to be a farmer in his native land, where he remained until he was 42 years of age. His destination, after landing on American soil, was Mercer County, and he came directly here, by way of the lakes and down the canal to Minster, and thence by wagon to the locality where, he had been led to believe, he would be able to purchase a farm at a reasonable price. His first purchase was one of 40 acres, near Wendelin.

On the same vessel in which he crossed the Atlantic Ocean, was a pleasant, attractive young woman, by the name of Anna Mary Erlbeck and during the long voyage they became well acqauinted and were married soon after they reached Wendelin. In her he found a hearty helpmate. They first built a log house and barn in the woods that covered the whole country outside of the village at that time. Later Joseph Rammel sold that farm and bought 80 acres in Granville township near our subject's present farm, and there he died on May 2, 1892. His widow still survives and resides in the home of her son George.

Joseph Rammel and wife had nine children, as follows: Joseph, deceased; Mary, who married Andrew Buehler; George; John, deceased; John (2), who married Catherine Borgerding; Frank, who married Catherine Sutter; Leonard, who married Mary Plas; Peter, who married Maggie Lieser; and Catherine, deceased, who was the wife of William Sutter.

George Rammel was reared in Granville township and has witnessed the wonderful development which has taken place in this part of Mercer County. In his boyhood there were no roads, just paths through the woods, and deer and wild turkeys were frequently seen and sometimes wild beasts were visitors to the farm. He first went to school in an old log structure and great were the rejoicings when a neat frame building took its place. He remained at home assisting his father on the farm until his marriage, in 1878, after which he bought 40 acres of land from his father, the portion of his farm on which he has resided ever since and on which, in the fall of 1900, he erected his comfortable frame house. Later, he bought 40 acres more from his father and subsequently he bought 80 acres from the W. Meinerding estate, all woodland, which he has cleared, and 25 acres from Michael Slageler. He rents a part of his land, which has a house and barn on it. He carries on mixed farming and has been very successful.

On October 27, 1878, Mr. Rammel married Mary Tobe, a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Glencamp) Tobe. Both parents of Mrs. Rammel were born in Germany and both died in Mercer County, the mother when Mrs. Rammel was 10 years old, and the father in old age. The latter came to

America when a youth of 18 years, settling first at Cincinnati, where he engaged in foundry work. Later he bought a farm near St. Henry, where the rest of his life was passed. Joseph and Mary Tobe had four children, namely: Joseph, who married Anna Siefering, first, and after her death, Caroline Collick; Benjamin, who married Bernadina Dahlinghouse; Fred, who married Elizabeth Dahlinghouse; and Mary, wife of our subject, who was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, on January 21, 1855, and was about 18 months old when her parents brought her to Mercer County.

Mr. and Mrs. Rammel have four children, namely: William Joseph, George, Dora and John George, all at home.

In politics Mr. Rammel is a Democrat. He served one term as township trustee and has been a member of the township School Board ever since 1878. With his wife and children, he belongs to St. Paul's Catholic Church, at Sharpsburg.

FRANK NIEKAMP

Frank Niekamp, a representative farmer of Marion township, resides on his well-improved farm of 78 acres in section 9. Mr. Niekamp was born on his father's farm in Marion township, February 28, 1864, and is a son of Frederick and Catherina (Stammen) Niekamp.

Frederick Niekamp was born in Germany in 1811, and died in Mercer County, Ohio, in 1894. At the age of 22 years he came to America and worked first at Cincinnati and is said to have assisted later in hauling the logs for the first houses ever built at Tippecanoe, Ohio, where he lived for some 15 years. In 1848 he moved to Mercer County and was one of the earliest settlers in Marion township. He was twice married, first at Dayton, Ohio, to Catherine Newhouse, who at her death left four children, namely: John, Clemmens, and Joseph, all deceased; and Mary, who married Rudolf Klostermann. He married (second) Catherina Stammen, who was also born in Germany and had accompanied her parents to Ohio. Ten children were born to this second union, as follows: Henry, who married Catherine Koch; Elizabeth, deceased; Philomena, who married John Ronnebaum; Gerhard, who married Elizabeth Mestemaker; Peter, who married Frances Bertke; Catherina, who died young; Frank, the subject of this sketch; Julia and Theodore, both deceased, and a babe that died in infancy. The mother of these children died in 1894.

Frank Niekamp attended the local schools and remained at home with his father, giving the latter assistance until he was about 32 years of age, when he was married to Elizabeth Klostermann, a daughter of Henry and Mary

(Mestemaker) Klostermann. Five children have been born to this union, namely: Alfred, Gregor, deceased, Charles, Josephine and Roman.

The Klostermann family, of which Mrs. Niekamp is a member, is a very prominent one of Franklin township, Mercer County. Her grandfather, Henry Klostermann, was born in Germany, emigrated to America and after establishing himself in business returned to his native land, where he married Mary Hullman, whom he brought to America. His son Henry, the father of Mrs. Niekamp, was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1852. He resides on a fine farm of 100 acres situated in sections 28 and 33, Franklin township. He married Mary Mestemaker and their children were: Elizabeth, who became the wife of our subject; Joseph; Frances, who married Frank Watercutter, of Shelby County, Ohio; Emma, who married Charles Dorston, of Mercer County; and Rudolph, who is in the employ of the "Big Four" Railroad Company, at Dayton. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Klostermann married (second) Catherine Backs, and they have these children: Harmen, Augustus, Gregor, Rose, Richard, Albert and Alvina.

In 1896 Mr. Niekamp purchased his present farm from Bernard Froning, but the frame residence he built himself and also made other important improvements. During a period of residence in Franklin township, he served one term as road supervisor and has served in the same office in Marion township. Mr. Niekamp and family are members of St. Sebastian's Catholic Church at Sebastian.

JOSEPH SCHWIETERMANN

Joseph Schwietermann, who has been a resident of Mercer County for 54 years and owns a fine farm of 250 acres in Franklin township, was born July 9, 1852, in Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Harman Arnold and Mary (Broanian) Schwietermann.

The parents of Mr. Schwietermann were both born in Germany, were married there and had one son, Gerhard, when they came to America and landed at the port of New York, in June, 1836. They came on to Ohio and the father settled on the farm which remained the old family homestead, on the New Bremen turnpike, east of Carthagena. On this farm these children were born: John Henry, Harman Henry, J. Bernard, Mary, Elizabeth, John and William (twins) and Joseph and Anna (twins). Both parents were about 58 years of age at death.

Joseph Schwietermann worked on the home farm until he was married in 1876 to Elizabeth Ronnebaum, who was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, and is a daughter of Henry Ronnebaum, who came from Germany to America at the age of 17 years and settled in Cincinnati, where he did house and sign

painting. He married Clara Frilling and they had nine children, four of whom were born at Cincinnati, and the others in Mercer County. They were: Henry, who married Elizabeth Albers and resides in Franklin township; John, who married Philomena Niekamp and resides in Franklin township; Elizabeth, wife of our subject; Clara, wife of Augustus Lennartz; Anna, who married John Puthoff and lives at Minster, Ohio; Frederick, who married Anna Homan, and lived on the home place until his death, in 1903; Katie, who married Frank Puthoff and lives in Shelby County; and two children who died in infancy. The father of Mrs. Schwietermann died on New Year's Day, 1894.

After marriage, our subject and wife went to housekeeping on his present farm, which he purchased in 1876, from his brother William. He built a two-room, brick house on his property and in this snug, comfortable little home seven children were born, but later he made additions and now has a fine brick residence of 12 rooms. His farm is one of the most valuable in his locality and he devotes his attention to the growing of grain and the raising of horses, cattle and hogs. He is known as a first class farmer, as well as an honorable and upright citizen.

Mr. and Mrs. Schwietermann have had these children: Mary, who married Frank L. Dabbelt, has three children—Hubert, Alfred and Ferdinand—and lives in Franklin township; Agnes, who married Aloys Dabbelt, has one child, Edwin Joseph, and lives in Franklin township; Minnie and Fred, who died in infancy; and Ferdinand, Clara, Pauline, Joseph and Urban, all of whom are at home.

Mr. Schwietermann is one of the leading members of the Catholic Church. He takes the interest of a good citizen in public matters pertaining to his township, but has accepted official position only on the School Board.

BARNEY JOHN DABBELT

Barney John Dabbelt, a representative farmer of Franklin township, owning and operating 105 acres of excellent land situated in section 31, was born February 18, 1869, in Franklin township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Hubert and Rosina (Lindhaus) Dabbelt.

The Dabbelt family was established in Franklin township, Mercer County, by Barney Dabbelt, the grandfather of our subject, who was born in Germany and came to Ohio with his family many years ago, in the early history of this section. He lived only into middle life, hard work breaking down his constitution. The three children born to his first marriage were: Gerhardt,

Anna (wife of John Beauchamp) and Hubert, all of whom are deceased. To his second were born Mollie (wife of Henry Dorston), Ignatz and August.

The father of our subject was 15 years old when he accompanied his parents to America. He worked for his father until his marriage and continued to live on the home farm until the death of his parents. These children were born to him and his wife, who was Rosina Lindhaus, before marriage: Barney John, of this sketch; Henry, who married Christina Heyne, and lives at Dayton; Catherine, who married Casper Clune and is now deceased; Frank Ludwig, who married Mary Schwietermann and lives on the home place in Franklin township; John, deceased at the age of 17 years; Aloys, who married Agnes Schwietermann; and Caroline, who died aged two years. Our subject's father died January 5, 1906.

The mother of our subject still survives and resides with her son, Frank Ludwig Dabbelt, on the old home place. She was born in Marion township when the country was entirely unsettled and her reminiscences of the early days are very interesting, as she possesses a remarkable memory. She recalls being sent, as a child, to chase the deer out of her father's wheat field. Mrs. Dabbelt remembers a tame deer that the family had for a pet. It was necessary to travel many miles over hill and through hollow to reach the nearest mill, at Piqua, and a home contrivance for grinding the grain was fitted up which sometimes had to answer the purpose. Her father burned out a log and in the center put his wheat, and by pounding it with a maul reduced it to a coarse powder. He thus prepared the grain for his own and the neighboring families. His farming was done with steers and home made machines, as he had neither plow nor harrow. He assisted in the building of the banks of the canal, using a wheelbarrow, and during this time he camped on its banks.

On October 21, 1891, our subject was married to Mary Hanfelder, a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Wabler) Hanfelder, and they have had these children: Julius, Lawrence, Romie, Hilda, William and John (deceased).

The parents of Mrs. Dabbelt came to America from Germany and settled at Cincinnati but later moved to Chickasaw, Mercer County, and soon thereafter established a home in Franklin township where one of the sons resides. Their children were: Elizabeth, who married Fred Tangeman and resides at Celina; Mary, born December 18, 1870, at Cincinnati, who is the wife of our subject; Barney, who lives at Chickasaw; and Joseph, who married Frances Stammen. Mary and Barney are twins.

Mr. Dabbelt purchased his present farm from Samuel Blakeley on March 11, 1891. It is a well-situated body of land, watered by a creek running through it and here Mr. Dabbelt carries on general farming and stock-raising. He is considered an excellent farmer and is known to his neighbors and those

MRS. SUSAN B. MURLIN GILES P. MURLIN MRS. JOSEPHINE M. MILLER ALPHA MILLER
WARREN BARBER DWIGHT MILLER MRS. SALLIE H. BARBER

(FOUR GENERATIONS)

with whom he has business dealings as a man of honest worth and good intentions. He is a member of the Catholic Church.

WARREN BARBER

Warren Barber, a prosperous and successful farmer of Union township, was born October 24, 1835, and is a son of Samuel C. and Hannah (Murlin) Barber.

Upon leaving his native State, New York, Samuel Barber moved first to Kentucky and then to Mercer County, Ohio, locating in Union township in 1828 and purchasing 120 acres of timberland one and a fourth miles southeast of Mendon. He cleared this land and placed it under cultivation. He was one of the very earliest settlers of the township and county. He was the father of five children: Relief, who married Isaiah Johns, a resident of Mendon, and died some years ago; Lucretia, deceased, who was the wife of John Bolton; Austin, deceased; Warren; and Abram, who was captain of Company C, 31st Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf. Samuel Barber died in 1851 at the age of 45 years and his wife died in 1844.

Warren Barber was reared on his father's farm and received his education in the district schools. At that time all this section was a wilderness and there was only one house between the Barber home and Neptune on the road to St. Marys, which was the market for a large part of Mercer County. His father drove twice a year to Piqua to get his wheat ground. The canal was then being constructed. There was only one small store at Mendon, and the other leading industries of the place consisted of a grist-mill for grinding corn, a tannery and a blacksmith shop. In 1847, when a boy of 12 years, our subject accompanied his father on a trip to Wisconsin, while moving a family through in a wagon, the cattle being driven. They passed through Fort Wayne, Chicago and Milwaukee. Chicago, a very small place at that time, was scarcely considered a rival of Fort Wayne. It required seven weeks to make the trip there and back. Mr. Barber remembers two Indians who often came to his father's house when he was a boy, to practice shooting.

After reaching manhood, Mr. Barber began farming as a renter, although he owned a small farm of 40 acres. He continued to rent until 1860, when he sold the 40-acre tract and purchased another farm, to which he has added until he now has an estate of 145 acres. He has cleared the greater part of his farm and has assisted in clearing several other farms.

In 1863 he enlisted in Company K, 88th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and served under Colonel Neff, Capt. Waldo F. Davis, 1st lieutenant Quick and 2nd lieutenant J. H. Patterson, the last named now a resident of Ada, Ohio. He

was mustered out at Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, and was honorably discharged July 3, 1865.

Mr. Barber was married March 11, 1857, to Sallie Hamilton, a daughter of William Hamilton, of Union township. Mrs. Barber was one of a family of children, as follows: Polly Ann, who married James Shepherd, and resides in Union township; Lois Hamilton, who married Cynis Hussey, and resides in Salem township, Auglaize County; Hugh, deceased, whose widow lives in Union township; Sallie, wife of our subject; Isabelle, who married John A. Murlin, and resides in Mendon; and William, deceased, whose family resides in Union township. Mr. and Mrs. Barber have had six children, namely: Martha L., who married J. H. Wright, and at her death left three children—Arthur, Zue and Maude; A. Harry, a merchant at Mendon, who married Clara Murlin and has four children—Mae, Meryl, Robert and Warren; Susan, who married Giles P. Murlin, resides in Union township and has one child, Josephine, who married Alpa Miller, and has one child—Dwight, the great-grandson of our subject; Lulu May, who married Horatio Hooper, and at her death left two children—Ralph and Ruth; Sophronia, deceased; and Walter, who married Celia Brewer, a daughter of Alpheus Brewer, and has four children—Vaughn, Kenneth, Janice and Keeth. Walter Barber owns a farm in Union township, and also runs his father's farm. In March, 1907, Mr. and Mrs. Barber will celebrate their golden wedding, having lived happily together since March 11, 1857. Mr. Barber is a Republican in politics, but reserves the right to vote for the best man for office. He is now serving his third term as township trustee. A picture of a portion of the Barber family, showing four generations, accompanies this sketch.

RUDOLF KLOSTERMANN

Rudolf Klostermann, one of the representative men and substantial farmers of Franklin township, owning and operating a valuable farm of 120 acres in section 28, was born September 28, 1848, at Cincinnati, Ohio, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Hullman) Klostermann.

Henry Klostermann came to America from Germany in young manhood, but subsequently returned to Germany and there married Mary Hullman, and with her came back across the Atlantic. They located at Cincinnati, Ohio, and there eight children were born, namely: Mary, who died in childhood; John, who died at the age of 19; Joseph, who married Mary Ann Cramer and is now deceased; Rudolf, of this sketch; Henry, who married (first) Mary Mestemaker and (second) Catherine Backs, and lives in Franklin township;

Frances, who died in childhood; George, who married Mary A. Schwietermann and lives in Franklin township; a babe that died in infancy.

Rudolf Klostermann was reared to the age of 17 years at Cincinnati, and then, in 1865, accompanied his parents to Mercer County. He had received a good, common-school education and after his father and mother settled here he took up farming and has continued this calling ever since. His mother bought 175 acres of land in Mercer County and later 160 acres and at the death of his parents he received 80 acres of the 160-acre tract, and his brother Henry the other 80 acres. The remainder of the 120 acres he owns he purchased from various parties. He carries on general farming and raises considerable live-stock, paying particular attention to his swine. He is considered a first-class agriculturist. His home is fitted up in a more modern way than are many rural residences, being lighted by gas piped from a gas well in the neighborhood, of which he is a one-fifth owner.

Mr. Klostermann was married to Mary Niekamp, a daughter of Frederick Niekamp, who was born in Germany and came to America in young manhood. At Dayton, Ohio, he married Catherine Newhouse, who left four children at death, viz.: John, Joseph, Clemmens and Mary, the wife of Mr. Klostermann. Later Mr. Niekamp married Catherine Stammen, and to that union were born 10 children, of whom five are now living, namely: Henry, Gerhard, Peter, Frank and Philomena. Frederick Niekamp and his second wife both died in 1894.

The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Klostermann were: Samuel and Catherine, both of whom died young; Anna, who married John Kroeger and at her death left one daughter Minnie, who has since lived with her grandfather, our subject; Henry, living in Franklin township, who married Anna Welker, and has two children— Lawrence and Leonard; Edward, who went West, married and lives in Colorado; and William, Lewis, Mary and Allen, who live at home.

Mr. Klostermann is superintendent of the Bennett turnpike, which passes by his farm, and he has also served as township supervisor.

JOSEPH BEACH NEWCOMB

Joseph Beach Newcomb, who has been a resident of Center township for over 66 years, is a prosperous farmer of this locality. He was born in Essex County, New York, January 29, 1829, and is a son of Miletus and Rhoda (Hayes) Newcomb.

Miletus Newcomb was born in Vermont and was a son of Luther and Anna (Salisbury) Newcomb. He moved to New York at an early age and

there located in Essex County, subsequently removing to Licking County, Ohio, where he bought a farm in St. Albans township. He was married to Rhoda Hayes and they had the following children: Luther, who died in 1843; Alanson, who died in youth; Miletus Madison, who died July 9, 1903, at Celina; Samantha, who died in childhood; Joseph B.; Mila Ann, who died at the age of 14 years; and Rosetta, deceased in infancy. Mr. Newcomb was captain of a local militia company. His death occurred September 14, 1837, in St. Albans township, Licking County, Ohio. His widow lived until September 30, 1848.

Joseph B. Newcomb was less than two years old when he accompanied his parents to Licking County, Ohio, where they first located in an unoccupied log cabin on a farm owned by a cousin of Mr. Newcomb's mother, who had located there some time before. Although less than two years old, Mr. Newcomb remembers some of the incidents of that trip, which were indelibly imprinted on his mind. His father died when Joseph B. Newcomb was young. When he was 11 years old, he accompanied his mother to Mercer County, where she located on a farm in section 20, Center township. There were no roads at that time and things had to be packed on horseback. The land was not cleared, and it was necessary to erect a cabin. After his marriage he moved into a cabin on the site of his present home. Some years later he built a hewed-log addition, which he lathed and plastered. About five years later it burned down and in 1870 he built his present comfortable home. He has followed farming and stock-raising all his life. The farm consists of one hundred acres.

Mr. Newcomb was married April 17, 1849, to Jane E. Piper, a daughter of Daniel and Sarah A. Piper. She was born in Miami County, Ohio, June 5, 1832, and died September 21, 1883. Nine children were born to this union, namely: James Madison, living on a part of the home place, who married Anna Brookhart and has two children—Leota and Belle; Mary America, who married Samuel Brookhart, and at her death left three children—Leroy, Lloyd and Bonnie; Joseph Luther, now deceased, who married Bessie Ridenour and had three children—Rollo E., Beulah and Floy; John Franklin, a Methodist minister residing at York, Ohio, who married Mamie Cater and has two children—Cecil and Ruth; Sarah Jane, who died in infancy. Cynthia Ann, who lives at home; Nancy Ellen, deceased at the age of six years; Alice, who lives at home and teaches school; and Rhoda Marvilla, also at home.

Mr. Newcomb is a Republican in politics and has served in many township offices. He belongs to the Celina lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a member of the Methodist Church and for many years was class leader and superintendent of the Sunday School.

HENRY KLOSTERMANN

One of the prominent and substantial families of Franklin township, is that of Klostermann, a number of residents of this name and of the same ancestry being settled not far apart. A well-known member of this honorable old family is Henry Klostermann, who owns 100 acres of fine land situated in sections 28 and 33. Mr. Klostermann was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, June 22, 1852, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Hullman) Klostermann.

Henry Klostermann, Sr., was born in Oldenburg, Germany, and has three brothers and one sister, namely: John, Joseph, Rudolph and Mary, the latter of whom married a Mr. Wegman, all of whom came to America—all are now deceased. In young manhood Henry Klostermann came to America and worked as a day laborer in Cincinnati. As soon as he found himself well enough established, he returned to Germany, where he married Mary Hullman, also a native of Oldenburg, and then returned with her to America, settling at Cincinnati. For a time he drove an express wagon and later conducted a grocery business. He had induced his brothers and sister and his wife's brothers, Henry and Theodore Hullman, to come with him to America and they all lived for a time in Cincinnati.

The older members of both families remained in Oldenburg. Both grandfathers of our subject were men of note there, having been soldiers under Napoleon and were participants in the battle of Waterloo. In this connection the aged warriors would often tell of the military glory of the once great leader and repeat an ominous saying of his that preceded his downfall. On one occasion, elated by a famous victory, Napoleon uttered the boastful words: "God is ruler of Heaven, and I am ruler on earth." The old soldiers declared that from that time his power declined. They also told of suspicions entertained in their day, that on various occasions the great Napoleon traveled over the country concealed in a load of hay, acting as a spy.

The children born to Henry and Mary (Hullman) Klostermann were: Mary, who died in childhood; John, who died aged 19 years; Joseph, who married Mary Ann Cramer, and is now deceased; Rudolf, who married Mary Niekamp, and lives in Franklin township; Henry; Frances, who died young; George, born on a farm 17 miles from Cincinnati, who married Mary A. Schwietermann and lives in Franklin township; and a babe that died in infancy.

After selling his store in Cincinnati, Mr. Klostermann cleared up a farm of 80 acres some 17 miles west of Cincinnati and it was while living on this farm that the father and sons made charcoal and sold it for 20 cents a bushel and also sold cord wood and even became expert in making staves. In the fall of 1863 Mr. Klostermann decided to make a new home for the family and

to provide, so far as was possible, for his growing sons. He bought a farm of 172 acres in Franklin township, Mercer County, from Christopher Johnson, this being the Klostermann home farm, which is now occupied by his son George. In the fall of the year, after they had garnered the crops from the farm near Cincinnati, a start was made by the family for the new home, which was in an unsettled part of Mercer County. No railroads had been constructed through this locality and after the family had come as far as New Bremen, Auglaize County, by canal, they took wagons and thus made the rest of the journey. When Henry Klostermann, Sr., died April 3, 1875, it was found that he had willed all he owned to his wife, who died in February, 1889. The farm was bought by the son George.

Henry Klostermann, our subject was 12 years old when he came to Mercer County, and a part of his education was secured in the schools of Franklin township. He remained at home until his marriage, when 21 years of age, to Mary Mestemaker, who at death left these children: Elizabeth, who married Frank Niekamp, of Marion township, and has four children; Joseph, who resides with his father on the home farm; Frances, who married Frank Watercutter, of Shelby County, Ohio, and has five children; Emma, who married Charles Dorston, of Mercer County; and Rudolph, who works at Dayton for the "Big Four" Railroad Company.

Mr. Klostermann was married (second) to Catherine Backs, a daughter of Bennett and Mary Backs, a native of Germany. The children of this second marriage are: Harman, Augustus, Gregor, Rose, Richard, Albert and Alvina. All the children were born on this farm which Mr. Klostermann purchased when it was but indifferently improved, the residence, however, having been built. He has carried on general farming all these years and for 28 years he ran a threshing machine, a business now conducted by his sons. Mr. Klostermann has a fortune in the gas-wells on his farm, two being in operation and from these wells Celina received its first gas.

Mr. Klostermann is a worthy member of the Catholic Church. He is one of the board of directors of the Marion Mutual Insurance Company. In local politics he takes a good citizen's interest and he has served on the School Board and was assessor for three years.

JOHN W. MYERS

John W. Myers, a well-to-do agriculturist of Gibson township, whose 80-acre farm is located in section 23, was born November 21, 1847, and is a son of Jacob and Rachel (Brown) Myers, and a grandson of John Myers, who was a native of Pennsylvania.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN E. HAMBURGER AND FAMILY

Jacob Myers was born in Hamilton County, Ohio, where he was reared, educated and married. His father, who had seven sons, had entered seven quarter sections of land in the State of Ohio, one quarter being for each son. There were three of these quarters in Darke County and four in Mercer County. In 1845 Jacob Myers and his wife moved to Mercer County and located on the section just across the road from the farm now owned by our subject. Jacob Myers had a family of nine children, of whom five are living, namely: Mrs. May Miller, of Darke County; John W.; Mrs. Dorcas Conklin; Robert; and Adam, lives on the home place. The deceased are: Almaretta, Anna and two infants that died unnamed. Jacob Myers died December 17, 1904. His wife died in 1881.

John W. Myers was reared and educated in Gibson township. He bought his present farm in 1876 and has made all the improvements on the place, having erected a fine large frame house and barn, and other necessary buildings. When 25 years of age, he married Rachel Ainsworth, who lived only six weeks after marriage. He was married in 1880 to Christina B. Rantz, a daughter of Abraham Rantz. They have had four children: James Earl, deceased at the age of 17 years and 5 months, who would have graduated from High School the spring following his death had he lived; Mary Eleanor, who is a graduate of the Fort Recovery High School; Berle A., a graduate of the Fort Recovery High School, who has taught school for three years, one year at Chattanooga, and two years at the College Corner school in Gibson township—it is his intention to attend college this coming year, and Jacob Oral, also a graduate of the Fort Recovery High School, who is now teaching school. Mr. Myers has served as a school director in Gibson township for a number of years.

JOHN E. HAMBURGER

John E. Hamburger, who is engaged in the real estate and insurance business at Celina, is one of the prominent men of Mercer County, and served as county recorder for quite an extended period. Mr. Hamburger was born at Engen, Baden, Germany, September 5, 1854, and is a son of Conrad and Margaret Hamburger.

The mother of Mr. Hamburger came to America in 1864, accompanied by her sons. She soon purchased town property in Marion township, Mercer County, Ohio, where she resided until her death, which took place February 1, 1896. She was a woman of great business capacity and a faithful, devoted mother.

Prior to coming to America, our subject had attended school in his native land and as soon as practicable resumed study in the schools of Marion town-

ship. When 19 years of age he went to Dayton, Ohio, and spent one year at Nazareth College. After his return home, he taught school in Marion township and continued to assist on the farm until 1879, when he removed to Celina. Here he engaged in the manufacture of cigars for the next nine years, making a success of the business, and then went into general contracting. This line he carried on from 1888 until 1891, when he accepted the nomination for recorder of Mercer County. He was elected to this office, was re-elected in 1894 and served with the greatest efficiency for six years and eight months. Probably the county never had a more popular incumbent in the office of county recorder than was Mr. Hamburger. His faithfulness, his care and accuracy saved the county a large amount of needless litigation and brought satisfaction to those who had dealings with the office during his administration. Upon his retirement from public office, he engaged in the manufacture of brick for the new Catholic Church at Celina. In June, 1903, he engaged in his present business. His office is located on Main street.

On January 8, 1879, Mr. Hamburger was married to Catherine P. Kreusch, who was born in Mercer County, Ohio. To this union nine children were born, of whom the survivors are: Margaret, August, Mary and Victor Edward. Mr. Hamburger and family, a group picture of whom accompanies this sketch, belong to the Catholic Church.

Mr. Hamburger owns considerable property in Celina and the vicinity, including his comfortable home on the corner of Anthony and Walnut streets.

CLAUDIUS GRIFFIN

Claudius Griffin, one of the most venerable as well as highly esteemed residents of Union township, was born 93 years ago, November 28, 1813, in a little, old log cabin, in Clermont County, Ohio. He is a son of Benjamin and Experience (Mitchell) Griffin.

Mr. Griffin comes of Revolutionary stock, his grandfather having served under General Washington in 1776 and also having participated in various campaigns against the Indians and French which made courageous soldiers out of peaceful farmers. Mr. Griffin's father was a soldier in the War of 1812. When the Civil War fell upon the land, our venerable subject, then too old to be accepted as a defender of his country, sent his son, who gave up his young life on the altar of patriotism.

Benjamin Griffin, father of our subject, was born near Utica, New York, later resided for a short period in Pennsylvania, but subsequently came to Ohio, erecting a mill in Clermont County. Three years later a freshet in the river carried his mill with its grain and flour off its foundations and through

only a fortunate accident were his home and family saved from like destruction. With his property thus destroyed, Mr. Griffin found it necessary to seek other means of subsistence and he decided to take up government land in Champaign County, where he finally located in a favorable spot. During the 15 years of his residence there, he cleared 120 acres of land, in the meantime enduring many pioneer hardships. When his son Claudius was about 18 years of age, Mr. Griffin was offered $5 an acre for his cleared land, which he accepted, and then purchased another farm in Van Wert County. Our subject remembers very vividly the five months he spent alone on the new farm, clearing five acres of it by himself during the first winter. Indians frequently visited him in his rude cabin and the surrounding woods were full of wild animals. In the spring, after a long and wearying journey, the rest of the family came to Van Wert County, and here they lived united for the next eight years. Claudius Griffin's descriptions of the hardships that were necessarily faced and of the various expedients made use of both on the farm and in the household to ensure agricultural success and family comfort, impress the hearer with the conviction that our pioneer fathers and mothers were possessed of qualities of which we, of a younger generation, may well feel envious.

Benjamin Griffin married Experience Mitchell, who died in 1867, aged 82 years, surviving her husband for seven years, who was 76 years old when he passed away. They were the parents of 10 children, as follows: Nathaniel, Foster, Benjamin, Levi, Lucy, Amy, Eunice, Claudius, George and Chandler.

In 1839 Mr. Griffin was married and with his bride moved to Mercer County, locating on entered land in the vicinity of Mendon, where he again began the making of a home in the wilderness. Assisted and encouraged by his capable wife, he soon had enough land cleared to start his agricultural operations. Together he and his wife sowed the seed by hand; the grain when grown was cut with a sickle and the threshing was done with a flail. Even then, in order to make use of the grain, it had to be hauled for from 20 to 30 miles, through the woods and over bridgeless streams, to reach a mill. On numerous occasions Mr. Griffin met with adventures and accidents which would have discouraged any but a brave and resourceful man.

For five years after moving to Mercer County, Mr. Griffin was not called upon to pay tax on the land he had entered from the government, but at the end of this period he was assessed, and to obtain the $15 necessary he sold a bunch of 60 two-year old hogs for 25 cents apiece. He walked to St. Marys, to the asessment office, paid the tax with all the money he had, and, as he was not acquainted in the village, walked the whole distance home again, fasting. For 10 years after he settled in Mercer County, he received no mail, the facili-

ties then not being an encouragement to correspondence. He recalls the first newspaper that ever came into his hand—a sheet of four pages about the size of an ordinary book.

As may be inferred, Mr. Griffin's educational opportunities were limited but this fact only made him the more anxious to secure better chances for his children. When sufficient families had settled in his neighborhood to make it possible to gather children together for a school, he made it his business to go from house to house and so represent matters that contributions were secured and a schoolhouse built. In the same way he was instrumental in the erection of the first church in his locality. Having united with a religious body at the age of 13 years, he realized the need of a place of worship where all might gather, although from the first his home had been the home also of the pioneer preachers who made their periodical visits through the country. In all his efforts he was most ably seconded by his estimable wife, who had become a professor of religion at the age of 16 years.

Mr. Griffin recalls when the site of Mendon was an Indian village and when the aborigines had only just left Van Wert, Lima, and many other points for the far West. All his relations with the Indians were in the main friendly, perhaps because he invariably treated them well, as he did all who were poor or unfortunate. His heart has ever responded to the call of distress, charity being quickly dispensed to those who required help.

In 1839 Mr. Griffin was married to Elizabeth Arnold, a daughter of John and Rachel Arnold, who were natives of Kentucky but were then residents of Venedocia, Van Wert County, Ohio. To our subject and wife were born 13 children, as follows: Eunice, deceased, who was the wife of Caleb Kelley; Mrs. Hannah Fryer, of Union township; John, deceased; Lucinda, deceased, who was the wife of William Lumunyon; Benjamin, who died young; Nathaniel, who married Ann Dobson, and resides at Celina; George F., who married Lydia Partner and is a farmer in Union township; Martha Jane, who is the wife of Joseph G. Severns, of Union township; Rachel, deceased, who was the wife of William Partner; William, who died young; Priscilla, who is the wife of Calvin Krugh, and lives in Union township; Isabella, who is the wife of Elroy Hussey, a prominent merchant and the postmaster at Mendon; and Ida, who is the wife of Clement Vallandigham Hood, of Union township.

A great grief came into the life of Mr. Griffin when his son John died in the army, during the Civil War. He was a valued member of the 18th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf. His death was caused from exposure after an attack of measles and his remains lie in the National Cemetery at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Mrs. Griffin died July 26, 1906, aged 85 years, 6 months and 4 days. Her married life had extended over a period of nearly 67 years.

In political sentiment Mr. Griffin is in accord with the Republican party although, at the age of 21 years, he cast his first vote for Andrew Jackson. He visited the polls for the last time to cast his ballot for his great fellow-citizen, the late President William McKinley.

Since 1881 Mr. Griffin has resided on his present farm, which is about half a mile from the old homestead. He is surrounded by a large and interesting family of descendants numbering at present: Seven living children, 47 grandchildren and 55 great-grandchildren. Every comfort that ample means can supply or loving thoughtfulness suggest is his. In a remarkable degree he retains the strength and clear faculties of years ago, having never used glasses to assist his vision and having at the age of 90 years performed the feat of reading the "Holy Scripture" through in the space of two weeks. This book is a very familiar one to him and its precepts he has faithfully followed through many, many years. He is a consistent member of the Church of God. His life has bridged a wonderful period of the world's history and in his locality he has ably performed his part in the mighty whole.

HARMAN GERHARD SCHWIETERMANN

Harman Gerhard Schwietermann, one of the prominent agriculturists of Marion township, Mercer County, Ohio, who resides on his valuable farm of 120 acres, situated in section 17, was born near Sebastian, in Marion township, Mercer County, Ohio, on April 13, 1868, and is a son of Gerhard and Josephine (Munning) Schwietermann.

The Schwietermann family is a numerous one in Mercer County, where it is noted for its thrift and good citizenship. It was founded here by the grandparents of our subject, Harman Arnold and Maria (Broaman) Schwietermann, who were born in Germany and came to America, when their oldest son, Gerhard, was three months old. The family home in Mercer County was established in 1836 on the farm now occupied by Frank Schwietermann. There were nine others in the family to which Gerhard belonged, namely: John Henry, Harman Henry, J. Bernard, Mary, Elizabeth, John and William (twins), and Anna and Joseph (twins). The parents died on the farm on which they had settled when all this land was little less than a wilderness.

Gerhard Schwietermann was reared a farmer and when he arrived at manhood worked for Anton Munning, whose daughter, Josephine, he married at a later date. Subsequently he purchased his father-in-law's farm. Josephine Munning was born in France and was seven years of age when she accompanied her parents to America. They settled near Sebastian, in Mercer

County, where she was later married to Gerhard Schwietermann. She had two brothers, and three sisters—Catherine, Victora and Mary.

Gerhard Schwietermann and wife had 10 children, as follows: Henry, who married Catherine Grieshop; Mary, who married George Klostermann; Anna, who married John Flick; Harman Gerhard, the subject of this sketch; Frank, who married Agnes Stammen; Josephine, who married John Schmidt; Elizabeth, who died aged 18 years; and Philomena, Louis and George, who live at home. The mother of this family died March 19, 1895, and the death of the father followed five years later, June 5, 1900.

Harman Gerhard Schwietermann was reared and educated in Marion township and has been a farmer ever since he has been old enough to handle agricultural implements. He purchased his present farm from his father, in 1890, and has resided here ever since, continually improving his property and adding both to its value and to its attractiveness. When he settled here the residence was a six-room brick house, quite comfortable as it was, but in no way equaling the fine home into which Mr. Schwietermann transformed it in 1906. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and stands in the front rank of good farmers of Marion township.

On February 12, 1890, Mr. Schwietermann was married to Catherine Homan, who was born in Mercer County, Ohio, June 11, 1872, and is a daughter of Barney and Mary (Evers) Homan. Mr. Homan came from Germany in young manhood and in Mercer County was married to Mary Evers, a native of this county. He was born in 1828 and she in 1841. They had the following children: Frank, who married Mary Polman; Clemmens, who married Catherine Kellar; Catherine; Anna, who is the wife of Barney Bills; Joseph, who married Anna Kellar; and Barney, who married Margaret Kellar. Mr. and Mrs. Homan reside on their farm of 170 acres in Marion township.

Mr. and Mrs. Schwietermann have four children, namely: Rosa, Stephen, Constant and Clemmens. The family belong to St. Sebastian's Catholic Church at Sebastian. Mr. Schwietermann is a valued and active member of St. Joseph's Society.

JOHN HENRY LANGE

John Henry Lange, a prominent and prosperous farmer of Granville township, who owns a fine farm of 350 acres of land in section 29, in two tracts, separated by the Lauber turnpike, 240 acres being in one and 110 in the other, was born on the Lange homestead, in Granville, township, Mercer

County, Ohio, January 6, 1855. He is a son of John Henry and Elizabeth (Overman) Lange.

John Henry Lange, Sr., was born in Germany and at the age of 19 years came to America. His parents, Henry and Mary Lange, were willing that their son should try his fortune in the land across the ocean, but they were poor and it took a large amount of money to pay his passage. They went to every extreme in order to secure the amount, even to selling the family cow. Later he assisted them to join him in America. When he landed in the great American metropolis of New York, he had just 50 cents in his pocket! It did not take him long, however, to find employment, but the work was the carrying of iron and after laboring for three days his shoulder became so sore that, in spite of what he considered fabulous pay, he was obliged to give it up. In Germany he had received $19 a year for his work, while the great iron company paid him $2 a day. He then went to Cincinnati and became acquainted with a contractor, who employed him during the summer in excavating. During the winter he went into the woods and cut cord wood, with his two partners camping out and doing their own cooking. Later he went into the excavating business as a contractor and filled out a railroad contract between Minster and Cincinnati. After this he bought 80 acres of land in Granville township, Mercer County, on which he built a log house which provided shelter until he could erect a better one, which latter one is still standing. A man of his energy and perseverance could not help being successful. He acquired and sold large tracts of land, handling over 1,000 acres in his time. He died on his farm on April 23, 1879.

During his residence in Cincinnati, he married Elizabeth Overman, who was born in Germany and came to America with her parents when she was six years of age. She died in Granville township, February 12, 1894. They had eight children, namely: Bernardina, who married J. H. Hulsman and lives at St. Henry; Anna, who married Anton Lammers, and lives at St. Henry; Mary, who married G. H. Moeller, and lives at St. Henry; Elizabeth, deceased in infancy; John Henry; John Herman, living on the home place, who married (first) Mary Morman, and (second) Elizabeth Dabbelt; Elizabeth (2), deceased, who was the wife of Bernard Borger; and Frank, who married Mary Steinlage, and lives near our subject.

John Henry Lange bears his father's name. He continued to work on the home farm, after finishing his schooling in the district schools, until he was married and ready to establish his own home. He had already secured 80 acres from his father and this he cleared, living on it, and later bought 30 acres from Paul Henry Hemmelgarn, and, still later, 120 acres from the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood, and subsequently 40 acres more from the same organization. Later he purchased 80 acres from Fred Beimel and

still later purchased 107 acres in Darke County, Ohio, making his total possessions amount to 457 acres.

In 1881 Mr. Lange built his comfortable, nine-room, frame residence and continued to add improvements of various kinds to the homestead. In 1893 gas was found on his farm and later oil was also discovered.

Mr. Lange has often heard his father tell of the wild condition of the country when he first settled here. On many occasions he had to drive deer out of his wheat field. He raised flax and kept sheep for the wool, which the women of the household spun and then wove into fabrics, with which they made the clothing for the family. They were accustomed to go to church in wooden shoes. At first they went 40 miles with their grist to secure flour for bread.

On May 24, 1881, Mr. Lange was married to Frances Drahman, a daughter of Bernard and Mary (Hemmelgarn) Drahman, who were born in Germany and died at St. Henry. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Drahman were: Henry; Bernardina, deceased, who was the wife of William Grave; Anna, who was a nun in a convent at Brooklyn, New York, where she died in 1892; Theresa, wife of Joseph Macke; John; Elizabeth, deceased, who was the wife of Martin Schoeneberger; Joseph; Frances; Bernard, who died aged 14 years; and Mary, who died aged seven years.

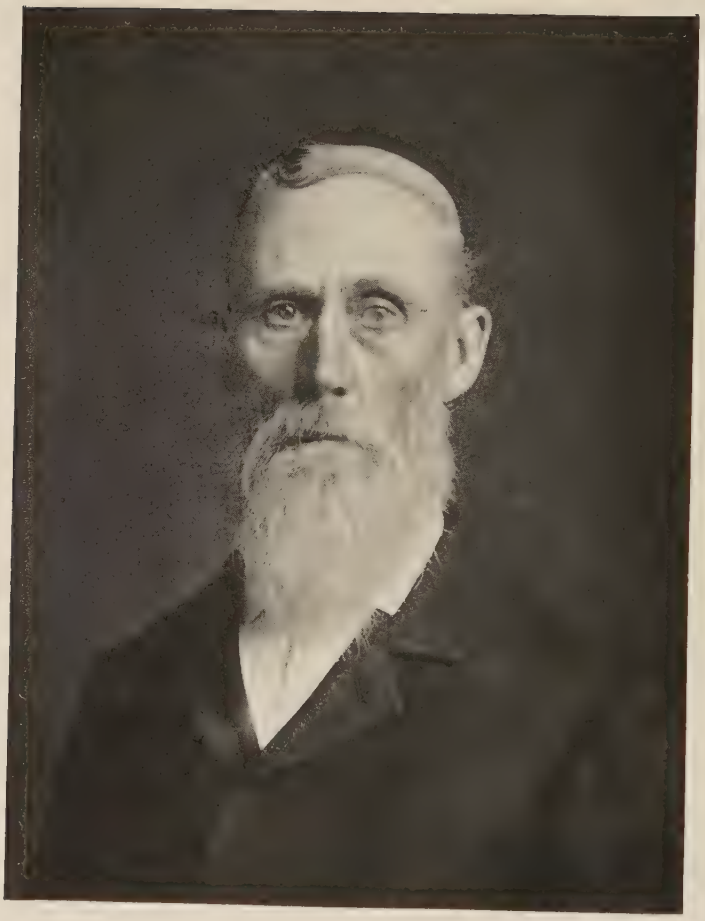
The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Lange were: Rosalia, who is the wife of Andrew Evers and a resident of Butler township; Joseph; Theresa; Amelia; Ludwig; Bernard; Henry; Albert; Ferdinand and Otilia, both deceased; and Ludvina. Mr. Lange and family belong to St. Henry's Catholic Church at St. Henry. In politics he is a Democrat.

FRANK LUDWIG DABBELT

Frank Ludwig Dabbelt, a prosperous farmer and well-known citizen of Franklin township, who owns a well-improved farm of 140 acres, which has been in the family since the grandfather's time, was born here on April 18, 1867. He is a son of Hubert and Rosina (Lindhaus) Dabbelt.

The grandfather of Mr. Dabbelt, Barney Dabbelt, was born in Germany, where he was twice married. He settled in Franklin township, Mercer County, on the farm above mentioned, and upon it passed the rest of his life. The children of his first marriage were: Gerhard, Hubert and Anna, the latter of whom married John Beauchamp, and all are now deceased. The children of the second marriage were: Ignatz, August and Mollie, the latter of whom is Mrs. Henry Dorston.

Hubert Dabbelt was about 15 years of age when he accompanied his



LEONARD GURLEY BROCK

MRS. ELIZABETH L. BROCK

father to Mercer County, and he remained all his life on the home farm, where he died January 5, 1906. At St. Sebastian's Catholic Church, at Sebastian, Mercer County, he was married to Rosina Lindhaus, who was born in Ohio, but is of German extraction. Of her three brothers, Henry, Barney and Joseph, the first named is dead. Of her sisters, Mary, Elizabeth, Caroline, Catherine and Lena, Catherine is deceased. Mrs. Dabbelt still survives and resides at the home of the subject of this sketch.

The children of Hubert Dabbelt and wife were: Barney John, who married Mary Hanfelder and resides on a farm near Montezuma; Henry, who married Christina Heyne, and lives at Dayton; Catherine, who married Casper Clune and is now deceased; Frank Ludwig, of this sketch; John and Caroline, who died young; and Aloys, who married Agnes Schwietermann and lives on a Franklin township farm.

Frank Ludwig Dabbelt has always followed farming. In 1898 he purchased his present farm, which included a comfortable, 10-room frame house and good barn. Mr. Dabbelt has made many improvements here and has a very valuable property. In 1892 he had experiments made to determine whether gas existed and the conclusions were so favorable that he had a well drilled from which gas still issues, which is utilized for heating and lighting.

On October 20, 1898, Mr. Dabbelt was united in marriage with Mary Schwietermann, a daughter of Joseph Schwietermann, a prominent citizen of Franklin township, and they have three children, namely: Hubert, born July 26, 1901; Alfred, born August 30, 1903; and Ferdinand, born April 24, 1905. Both Mr. Dabbelt and wife are members of St. Sebastian's Catholic Church at Sebastian.

LEONARD GURLEY BROCK

Leonard Gurley Brock, residing on his well-improved farm of 160 acres, which is situated in section 9, Jefferson township, was born in Seneca County, Ohio, July 30, 1837, and is a son of Rev. Wesley and Zerilda (Hopkins) Brock.

Rev. Wesley Brock was born in Jackson County, Indiana, and was a son of David Brock, who was born in England. Wesley Brock was married first in Indiana and one son, David, was born to that marriage, who died at the age of 25 years. After coming to Ohio, Mr. Brock was married to Zerilda Hopkins, a daughter of Hazzard Hopkins, a substantial farmer of Logan County, Ohio, and they had eight children, seven of whom still survive. The record is as follows: Leonard G.; Sylvester; John Wesley; Francis; Orlando Hopkins; Elonidas Gardner; Emma Alice, deceased at the age of four years; and Wilbur Hazzard.

For many years Rev. Wesley Brock was a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church and our subject's boyhood was spent in many different parts of Ohio, just as his father would be moved from station to station. In later years Rev. Wesley Brock bought a large body of farming land, some 480 acres, in Jefferson township, Mercer County, and he entered 160 acres in his own name and 120 acres in our subject's name, when the latter was 14 years of age. He was a man of excellent business faculty as well as pious zeal and he is remembered in the old church annals as a faithful worker and effective preacher. He died on November 19, 1857 and is resting in what is called the Swamp Cemetery in Jefferson township. The mother of our subject survived him many years, dying on August 21, 1898, aged 82 years.

Leonard G. Brock was about 15 years old when he came first to Jefferson township and he assisted his father in clearing the land. On many occasions in those early days he killed deer on the very fields he has since cultivated.

On April 29, 1864, Mr. Brock was married to Elizabeth Langle, a daughter of Adam Langle, of Butler township, and they had seven children born to them, viz: Lawrence Emerson, an officer in the internal revenue service, living at Troy, Ohio, who married Jennie Steele and has one daughter; Otho, residing on the home farm, who married Effie Richeson and has two children—Lela and Meredith Leonard; Carrie Irena, who married Rev. James Francis Olive, a preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church, who is in charge of a church at Carey, Wyandot County, Ohio—they have two children, Millie Marie and James Francis; and four children that died in infancy. Mrs. Brock died November 12, 1901.

Mr. Brock has lived to see many changes take place in this part of Mercer County and he has borne his part of the burden in the general progressive movement. He has a fine farm and carries on general farming and stock-raising. He has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church since 1880. In politics he is a Republican, having cast his first vote for President Lincoln in 1860. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Brock accompany this sketch.

BARNEY ROHLER

Barney Rohler, a well-known citizen and general merchant of Montezuma, was born in Germany in 1865 and is a son of John and Mary Rohler.

John Rohler was born in Germany, and spent the greater part of his life in his native land, coming to America with his wife and daughters in 1887. He was married in Germany and all of his children were born in that country. He was the father of six children: Harman, who died in child-

hood; Cecilia (Stacy), who lives in Chicago; Gertrude, who married Henry Albers and lives in Shelby County, Ohio; Anna, deceased, who was the wife of Gerhard Brunick; Maggie, a resident of Shelby County, Ohio, who is the widow of A. Benanza; and Barney.

Barney Rohler was reared in Germany on a farm and at the age of 20 years came to this country, this being about two and a half years before the rest of the family came. He lived at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, for about three months. In 1885 he came to Mercer County and worked on a farm for Henry Luctifelt for about two years. He then rented a farm for his father near McCartyville, Shelby County, Ohio, where he remained assisting his father for three years, after which he rented a farm of 80 acres from Anthony Albers in Shelby County, Ohio, which he operated for the next three years. His next move was to Frank Hullman's farm of 80 acres on which he lived for four years. Subsequently he bought a farm of 110 acres in Franklin township, Mercer County, where he lived for six years. He sold this farm to Harlow W. Burdge and in 1905 opened up a general store in Montezuma, which he is still conducting.

Mr. Rohler was married in the fall of 1892 to Elizabeth Watercutter and they have had six children, namely: John, Frank, Margaret, Heinrich, Regina and Gregor. Mr. Rohler is a member of the Catholic Church at Montezuma.

JESSE W. MYERS

Jesse W. Myers, a representative agriculturist and well-known citizen of Butler township, who lives on his valuable, well-cultivated farm of 100 acres, 50 acres of which are in section 22 and 50 in section 27, was born in Shelby County, Ohio, January 18, 1847, and is a son of John and Orilla (Philipps) Myers.

James Myers, the grandfather of our subject, came from Pennsylvania as a pioneer to Shelby County, Ohio, and in the pioneer home there John Myers, father of our subject, was born. When Jesse W. Myers was eight years old the family removed to Miami County, remaining there three years and then returning to Shelby County, finally removing to Greenville, Ohio, where the father passed the rest of his life.

Jesse W. Myers came to Mercer County in 1866, when 21 years of age, having visited several of the Western States prior to this. He worked as a farmer and later purchased land which was then all covered with standing timber. This he cleared, and effected many other improvements here during the ensuing years. Finally he owned 164 acres of excellent land. Subsequently he gave his son 64 acres, retaining 100 acres, which he has placed under

excellent cultivation. Mr. Myers carries on general farming and raises some stock.

In 1870 Mr. Myers was married in Mercer County to Mary C. Wyett, a daughter of John T. D. Wyett. Mrs. Myers died in January, 1893, leaving one son, John A., who resides on the home farm, unmarried. On January 1, 1894, Mr. Myers was married (second) to Mrs. Jane (Frick) Andrews, widow of James Andrews. She had three children by the first marriage, namely: Chloe, who married Earl Poor and has one child, James Lowell; Clyde, who is employed in Judge Charles S. Younger's office; and Pearly, who died in infancy.

For the past 33 years Mr. Myers has been a member of the United Brethren Church, for a long time has been class leader and is now one of the stewards. He does not belong to any fraternal organization, but his son is a popular member of the Eagles. Mr. Myers is very highly respected in his neighborhood, bearing the reputation of a man of integrity and uprightness, one whose influence is always cast in the direction of temperance and morality.

WILLIAM ELLIS NEWCOMB

William Ellis Newcomb, who has been a lifelong resident of Mercer County, is a well-known agriculturist of Center township, where he owns a valuable farm of 170 acres. He was born March 11, 1851, and is the son of Miletus Madison and Margaret Catherine (Ellis) Newcomb, and a grandson of Miletus Newcomb.

Miletus Newcomb, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Vermont. He moved to New York at an early age and located in Essex County, subsequently removing to Licking County, Ohio, where he bought a farm in St. Albans township, where he lived until his death, September 14, 1837. His widow, who was Rhoda Hayes, in maiden life, lived until September 30, 1848.

Miletus Madison Newcomb, father of our subject, came to Mercer County at an early age and assisted in supporting his mother after the death of his father. He inherited 40 acres of the home place, afterwards acquired more land and at one time had 275 acres. He owned 100 acres of what is now our subject's place, but which was not a part of the old homestead. For some years he was engaged in the hay business, in partnership with his son, William Ellis Newcomb, being among the first to engage in the hay business in Celina, where he lived for four or five years prior to his death, which occurred July 9, 1903. He married Margaret Catherine Ellis, a native of Shelby County, Ohio, and a daughter of William and Sarah Hannah (Fer-

rell) Ellis, who later became residents of Celina. Mrs. Newcomb is still living, being now 78 years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Newcomb were the parents of 10 children: Miletus, who resides in Celina; William Ellis, subject of this sketch; Isaac, deceased; Sarah Hannah, deceased; Mrs. Melissa Raudabaugh, who lives in Celina; John Francis, who died in early manhood; A. B., who lives in Celina; Mrs. Minnie Steman, who lives on the home place; Oran, who lives on the home place; and Margaret May (Mrs. D. M. Miesse), who lives on a corner of the home place. Mr. Newcomb enlisted in the 100-day service during the Civil War and took part in several early skirmishes. He was a Republican in politics and served in several township offices.

William Ellis Newcomb was reared on the home farm in Center township, where he remained until 33 years of age, when he moved to his present place, living for five years in an old log cabin. He cleared about 125 of his 170-acre property. In 1887, after selling his personal property, he moved to Celina and in partnership with his brother, A. B Newcomb, engaged in the grocery business, in which he continued for a period of 12 years. He sold out to his brother in 1899 and returned to his farm in Center township, where he has since resided, and where he is engaged in general farming and stock-raising. During the period of his residence in Celina, he was also engaged in the implement and wind-pump business for about six or eight years, and was also a large dealer in hay, buying and selling in great quantities.

Mr. Newcomb was married in 1883 to Melinda Carpenter, who died in 1887, leaving two children, as follows: Melissa, wife of J. B. Collins; and Ida Belle, who married W. S. Stanbery. His second marriage occurred in 1898 to Mary Harmon. Mr. Newcomb is a Republican in politics. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

FRANK NIEKAMP, JR.

Frank Niekamp, Jr., whose fine farm of 80 acres is located in section 10, Marion township, was born August 6, 1875, in Franklin township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Clemmens and Catherine (Lindhaus) Niekamp.

Frederick Niekamp and wife, the grandparents of our subject, emigrated to America from Germany and settled at Tippecanoe, Ohio, where they lived for seven years. Mr. Niekamp then removed to Mercer County, where he traded an old surrey for a tract of land in Marion township. He was a man of more than usual intelligence and at that time was about the only man in the township who could speak English. On this account he frequently represented the people in the courts of Celina. He was twice married. By his first wife, Catherine Newhouse, he had four children, namely: John, who married Anna Dabbelt for his first wife and Catherine Borget for his second—both now deceased; Clemmens, our subject's father; Joseph, who died unmarried

at Cincinnati; and Mary, who married Rudolf Klostermann. By his second marriage, to Catherine Stammen, he had 10 children, viz: Henry, who married Catherine Koch; Elizabeth, deceased; Philomena, who married John Ronnebaum; Gerhard, who married Elizabeth Mestemaker; Peter, who married Frances Bertke; Catherine, who died young; Frank, who married Elizabeth Klistermann; Julia and Theodore, both deceased; and a babe that died in infancy.

Clemmens Niekamp was born at Tippecanoe, Ohio, and accompanied his parents to Mercer County. Here he married Catherine Lindhaus, who was born in Mercer County, and is a daughter of Bernard Lindhaus, a native of Germany. They had two children: Frank; and Anna, the latter of whom married George Grapperhaus, and lives in Marion township. The father of our subject bought a farm in Franklin township and on that farm both he and his wife died, within three days of each other, this double bereavement coming to their son when he was but four years old, and to his sister when still younger. Their grandfather, Frederick Niekamp, took charge of the children and they were reared on his farm in Marion township.

Frank Niekamp, Jr., was reared and educated in Marion township and has devoted his whole life to farming. In 1898 he purchased his 80-acre farm from Anthony Weber, who was administrator for Henry Kaiser. It is a good property and is well managed by its present owner. Its improvements consist of the usual farm buildings, all of a substantial character, and a pleasant, roomy, frame residence, which is kept in fine order by Mr. Niekamp's estimable wife.

In the year he bought his farm, Mr. Niekamp was married to Catherine Wabler, who was born on the Wabler home farm in Franklin township, Mercer County, December 11, 1876. She is a daughter of Henry and Theresa (Koch) Wabler, who now live retired at Dayton, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Wabler had 10 children, as follows: John, Catherine, Anthony, Rosa, Anna, Frances, Elizabeth, Henry, Leo, deceased at the age of three months; and Regina.

Mr. and Mrs. Niekamp have had six children, namely: Leon and Hilda, both deceased; Amanda; John and Mary (twins), both deceased; and Rosa. The family belong to the Catholic Church. Mr. Niekamp is a member of St. Joseph's Society.

JOHN HENRY SCHWIETERMANN

John Henry Schwietermann, a well-known citizen and representative farmer of Franklin township, owning and operating a farm of 185 acres situated in sections 33 and 32, was born in Mercer County, Ohio, October 29,

1840, and is a son of Harman Arnold and Mary (Broaman) Schwietermann.

The parents of Mr. Schwietermann were born in Hanover, Germany. Harmon A. Schwietermann lived on his father's farm in the old country until he came to the United States; his brother-in-law being a large contractor and dyke builder, he frequently worked for him in Holland and other countries at dyke building. Harman A. Schwietermann had three brothers, Gerhard, Bernard and Henry, and one sister, but none came to America except himself. He married in Germany and with wife and one son, Gerhard, landed at New York, on SS. Peter and Paul's Day, in 1836, and immediately left for Buffalo, New York, where they remained for a short time and then pushed on into Ohio. The father bought a farm of 80 acres in Marion township, Mercer County, only about an acre of which was cleared, and later, as his children grew up, continued to add to his possessions until he owned, at the time of his death, some 300 acres. He carried on general farming and raised stock. His children born in America were: John Henry, Harman Henry, J. Bernard, Mary, Elizabeth, John and William (twins), and Anna and Joseph (twins).

John Henry Schwietermann, like his father and brothers, stands very high in public esteem in his neighborhood. He is an honest, industrious farmer and stock-raiser and his well-cultivated farm and fine home give testimony to his capacity as a farmer and his pride in his surroundings. His house is heated and lighted by a system of gas piping from a gas-well, of which well he is part owner; he also has telephone connection.

Mr. Schwietermann was married on June 12, 1866, to Mary Meinerding and they have four children, viz.: John, who married Martha Shell, and has five children—he was formerly a teacher in a high school in Missouri, but now conducts a general store; Charles, who married Caroline Will, lives on the old home place and has five children; Elizabeth, who married Joseph Folke and resides at Coldwater; and Frank, single, who lives at home.

Mr. Schwietermann has always been a good citizen and has taken some interest in local politics, assisting in electing good men to office and in working for public improvements. He has not often accepted office for himself, but did serve for a time as township trustee. He is a member of the Catholic Church.

PAUL HENRY HEMMELGARN

Paul Henry Hemmelgarn, whose well-developed and highly cultivated farm of 130 acres is located in section 29, Granville township, was born June 10, 1853, at Minster, Auglaize County, Ohio, and is a son of Henry Hemmelgarn, a native of Germany.

Henry Hemmelgarn came to this country with his parents when two and a half years of age. His parents first located at Springfield, Ohio, and in a few years moved to Mercer County, where his father bought a farm of 80 acres in Cranberry Prairie for a very small sum. The land was cleared and a round-log cabin was erected, and here his parents passed the remainder of their days. They had a family of six children, namely: Mary, deceased; Elizabeth; Catherine; Theodore, a resident of Granville township, who married Mary Hulsman, now deceased; Joseph, deceased; and Henry, father of our subject.

Henry Hemmelgarn learned the carpenter's trade when a boy at Minster, where he lived for a few years after his marriage. In 1855 he moved to Granville township, Mercer County, where he bought a farm of 40 acres on the township line near Cassella. He subsequently sold this farm and took an interest in a sawmill at Cassella, in which business he remained for two years. He then bought 120 acres of land in Granville township and lived on this farm for about 22 years, when he sold it and bought 190 acres in Marion township, where he is still living with his son John, who has since bought the farm. He married Catherine Smith, who came from Germany with her parents when six years of age. They became the parents of these children: Paul Henry, subject of this sketch; Theodore, deceased in infancy; Catherine, who married Joe Hagerdorn, of St. Rosa; Bernard, who married Josephina Hesselfelt and lives at Cincinnati; John, who married Bernardina Albers and resides on the old home place in Marion township; Charles, who married Philomena Gottemoller and lives in Marion township; William, deceased in infancy; and Elizabeth, who married Herman Brandewie, of Auglaize County. Mrs. Hemmelgarn died at Cranberry Prairie in December, 1872.

Paul Henry Hemmelgarn has always lived in Mercer County and been engaged in agricultural pursuits. He purchased a farm in 1877 from Mr. Fraser. This land was the old Landon Bennett place, which was entered in 1835 in the United States Land Office at Lima, and Mr. Hemmelgarn has the deed which is signed by President Van Buren. The Wabash River at one time run through this land, but now nothing remains but the river bed, as the course of the river has changed. The house, which is a large, six-room, frame building, sets back about a quarter of a mile from the road, and was erected by our subject in 1894. A large barn and other improvements have been added by him. Mr. Hemmelgarn has a well-kept vineyard.

Mr. Hemmelgarn was married November 9, 1875, at Cranberry Prairie, to Elizabeth Lemm, a daughter of William H. Lemm. They have had 10 children, namely: Catherine, who married Fred Gottemoller, lives in Marion township and has three children—Mark, Urban and Mary Elizabeth; Cecilia Anna, deceased in infancy; Elizabeth; Joseph; Mary; Charles; Henry; Leo;

RESIDENCE AND BARN OF JACOB ALEXANDER TINGLEY

Theresa; and Maggie, who is deceased. Mrs. Hemmelgarn died February 8, 1900. Mr. Hemmelgarn has served several terms on the School Board, and he and his family are members of St. Wendelin's Catholic Church at Wendelin.

JACOB ALEXANDER TINGLEY

Jacob Alexander Tingley, a prosperous farmer and leading citizen of Mercer County, owns 241 acres of finely improved land, which is situated in one of the best sections of Union township. He belongs to good old Ohio stock, and was born May 4, 1861, in Dublin township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of John B. and Martha J. (Baltzell) Tingley.

Our subject is of English and Scotch extraction. The Tingley family originated in England. Two brothers of the name came together to America very many years ago, one being a sea captain and the other a merchant. The latter married a Scotch lady and became the progenitor of the Tingley family that is under consideration.

William B. Tingley, grandfather of Jacob A., was born and reared in Clermont County, Ohio. His children were: John B., father of our subject; Jonathan, who lived and died in Cincinnati; Benton, who resides in Madisonville, near Cincinnati; Albert, who resides near Cincinnati; Mrs. Elizabeth Black, who died in Ohio; and Anna, deceased, who was the wife of Thomas Akins.

John B. Tingley, the eldest son of William B., was born April 15, 1825, in Hamilton County, Ohio. In 1859 he moved to Dublin township, Mercer County, settling on the farm on which he lived until his death, which is now owned and occupied by two of his sons, Nathan Andrew and Walter B. His death occurred January 7, 1903, in his 78th year. He married Martha J. Baltzell, who died in June, 1900, in her 64th year. She was a daughter of Jacob A. and Priscilla (Stewart) Baltzell, who moved from Hamilton County to Van Wert County, and settled in Liberty township. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob A. Baltzell were: Martha J.; Philip, who died in Hamilton County, Ohio; Nathan, who died in February, 1906, in Liberty township, Van Wert County; Samuel, who lives at Ohio City, Ohio; Harriet, who is the wife of A. T. Sutton, a prominent farmer of Dublin township; Alexander, who died in Van Wert County, some years since; and Lloyd, who died young.

The children of John B. Tingley and wife were: Jacob A., of this sketch; Harriet Priscilla, who married S. A. Clay, a native of Union township, and resides at Rockford; William Benton, a large farmer of Dublin township, owning and operating 160 acres of fine land, now serving his second term as

township trustee, who married Anna Wert, of Liberty township, Van Wert County; Nathan Andrew, who married Mary Foster, of Middlepoint, Ohio, and lives on his valuable farm of 110 acres, located on the line of Union and Dublin townships; Walter B., who married Bessie Bevington, of York township, Van Wert County, Ohio, who resides on the old homestead of 103 acres in Dublin township, that he owns; Mary Etta, who married Thomas Tester, of Dublin township, and resides two miles east of Rockford, where they own a farm of 50 acres; Arthur, who died in infancy in Hamilton County, Ohio; and Samuel and Alwilda, both of whom died as infants, in Mercer County.

Jacob A. Tingley attended what was known as the Frisinger school, in Dublin township, during his boyhood. From youth he has been practically associated with agricultural life and is a thorough farmer. When he started out for himself, he bought 30 acres of land in Dublin township, which he later sold and bought 116 acres, to which he added 80 acres and finally a little over 45 acres. This was formerly the old Archer homestead and he purchased 116 acres from the heirs, his next purchases being from a Mr. Boroff, and the Miller heirs. In 1900 he built his fine residence and substantial barn. His premises are equipped with every appliance for the modern style of farming, which he carries on in a scientific manner and prospers accordingly. In addition to fertility, his farm is valuable on account of the discovery here of oil and there are several producing wells on his land. This portion he has owned but two years, when he bought the royalty. The five wells promise good returns.

On November 8, 1881, Mr. Tingley was married to Amanda J. Archer, who was born in Union township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a daughter of J. M. and Mary (Tomlinson) Archer, who settled on the present farm of our subject prior to the Civil War; here Mr. Archer died in 1887 and Mrs. Archer in 1874.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Archer were: Lucinda, who married William Shelley and resides in Union township; Amanda J., wife of Mr. Tingley; Scott, a resident of Michigan; Henry, a resident of North Baltimore, Ohio; John, a resident of Berrien County, Michigan; Alonzo, deceased; Myrtle, who married Lewis Shindledecker and resides at Benton Harbor, Michigan; and a child that died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Tingley have two children, Edith and Joseph. The former married C. L. Ross, and they live on Mr. Tingley's place in Union township. Joseph was born April 16, 1883, and is engaged with his father on the home farm.

Politically, Mr. Tingley is a Democrat. In the fall of 1894 he was elected a member of the township Board of Education. He is a member of the

Methodist Episcopal Church known as Wesley Chapel. Views of Mr. Tingley's residence and barn accompany this sketch.

JOHN PETER WRIGHT

John Peter Wright, a successful farmer of Washington township, residing on a farm of 80 acres situated in section 11, was born July 2, 1860, in Miami County, Ohio, and is a son of David and Catherine (Sheets) Wright.

David Wright was born in Butler County, Ohio, where he was reared and educated. After reaching manhood he moved to Miami County and located on a farm. He married Catherine Sheets and had two children: James Buchanan, who died at the age of seven years; and John Peter. About 1865 he moved to Mercer County and located on a farm about two miles south of the farm on which his son now lives. He was a tanner by trade, and always run a tannery in connection with his farming operations until his death, which occurred in 1872. Mrs. Wright died in 1886.

John P. Wright, the subject of this sketch, was reared in Washington township and was educated in the district schools of the township. He is now engaged in farming, but has also done some carpentering in connection with his farm work. Mr. Wright bought his present farm in 1885 and has made most of the improvements which have been made on the place.

Mr. Wright was first married in 1885 to Maggie Kettering, and they had one child, Ida Mabel, who married B. F. Powell and has two children—Delila and Margaret Mabel. Mrs. Wright died October 13, 1891. Mr. Wright's second marriage occurred on February 11, 1896, to Mary Ellen Carmack, a daughter of Charles and Sarah Jane Carmack; Charles Carmack died in 1872 and his wife is still living in Washington township. Mr. and Mrs. Wright are the parents of two children: Ralph Eugene and Charles David. The large frame house which the family occupy was erected in 1894 and in 1905 the barn was built.

Mr. Wright served his township in various offices, having served two terms as assessor of Washington township, is one of the school directors and is also pike superintendent. He is a member and a deacon of the Wabash Christian Church. He is a member and is at present master of Wabash Grange, No. 236, P. of H.

ALOYS DABBELT

Aloys Dabbelt, whose fine 80-acre farm is located in section 34, Franklin township, was born on the Dabbelt home farm, near Sebastian, May 26, 1884, and is a son of Hubert and Rosina (Lindhaus) Dabbelt.

Hubert Dabbelt was born in Germany and was 15 years old when he accompanied his father, Barney Dabbelt, to America. Barney Dabbelt was twice married; the children of his first union were: Gerhard, Anna and Hubert, and of the second marriage, Mollie, Ignatz and August. Hubert Dabbelt was reared on the farm on which his father settled and remained there until the death of the parents. He married Rosina Lindhaus, who was born in Ohio, but had German parents; her mother resides in this country aged about 85 years. The children born to Hubert Dabbelt and wife were: Barney John, who married Mary Hanfelder and lives on a farm near Montezuma; Henry, who married Christina Heyne and lives at Dayton; Catherine, who married Casper Clune and is now deceased; Frank Ludwig, who married Mary Schwietermann, lives on the home farm at Sebastian, Ohio; John and Caroline, who died young; and Aloys. The father died January 5, 1906, but the mother still survives and resides with her son Frank Ludwig on the home place. She is a lady of remarkable memory and can tell of the early days in this section in a very entertaining way.

Aloys Dabbelt remained with his parents until he was married, attending the neighboring schools and assisting in the operating of the farm. Mr. Dabbelt enjoys the distinction of being one of the youngest farmers, to own his own farm, in Franklin township. This property he purchased in June, 1905, from his father, and he has demonstrated his capacity as a farmer in his excellent management of it since it came into his possession. When he took charge, a comfortable six-room frame house stood here and the commodious barn had also been built, but Mr. Dabbelt has continued to make improvements of various kinds.

On June 13, 1905, Mr. Dabbelt was married to Agnes Schwietermann, a daughter of Joseph Schwietermann, a sketch of whom will be found elsewhere in this work. They have an infant son, Edwin Joseph, who was born May 30, 1906. Both Mr. Dabbelt and wife belong to the Catholic Church.

MILTON O. KRUGH

Milton O. Krugh, mayor of Mendon and principal of the Mendon High School, was born in York township, Van Wert County, Ohio, October 25, 1868, and is a son of William and Malissa (Hays) Krugh, and a grandson of John and Mary (Miller) Krugh.

William Krugh was born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, October 10, 1840, and was reared on his father's farm, working through eight months of the year and attending school about three. He was 21 years old when he

left home and came to Ohio, locating with William Heath, in October, 1861. His father came to Ohio in the following spring.

In August, 1862, William Krugh enlisted for service in the Civil War, entering Company A, 99th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and remained in the service for three years. He was mustered in at Camp Lima, Lima, Ohio, and was mustered out in 1865 at Salisbury, North Carolina. Mr. Krugh took part in many of the great battles of that war and witnessed the death and disabling of many of his comrades. He participated in the battles of Perryville, Stone River, Mission Ridge, Orchard Knob, Chickamauga, Dalton, Kenesaw Mountain, Big Sandy, Resaca, Peach Tree Creek, the siege and capture of Atlanta, Jonesboro, Lovejoy Station, Nashville and then Franklin, where was fought one of the severest battles of the Rebellion. Mr. Krugh receives a service pension but he was fortunate enough to never experience wounds or serious sickness.

The brave 99th Ohio became decimated from severe fighting and hence was merged with the 50th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf. The first officers of Mr. Krugh's company were: Capt. James Scott; 1st Lieutenant King, of Delphos, Ohio; and 2nd Lieut. William T. Exline of Liberty township, Van Wert County. The last named became captain at a later date, Captain Scott having been killed at Stone River. Captain Exline now resides on a farm in Liberty township, Van Wert County, near Ohio City

After his honorable discharge from the army, Mr. Krugh bought a farm in Van Wert County, Ohio, on which he lived for 10 years and then came to Mercer County, where he rented land for two years. Then Mr. Krugh bought the farm on which he has lived for the past 25 years, which contains a fraction over 113 acres and is situated in section 19, Union township.

On February 9, 1868, Mr. Krugh married Malissa J. Hays, a daughter of Jackson and Eliza B. Hays, and to this union were born the following named children: Milton O., the immediate subject of this sketch; Orum H., a farmer in Union township, who married Winnie Snyder, daughter of George Snyder and has three children, Ernest, Mary and Bruce; Homer J., employed in a grocery store at Mendon, who married Stella Rhodes, daughter of Benjamin Rhodes, and has one child; William E., operating the Yocum farm in Union township, who married Nellie Kinkley, daughter of Christopher Kinkley, and has two children, Chloe and Ellen; Mary E., born August 24, 1875, deceased December 4, 1878; and Ella F., born April 15, 1885, deceased April 10, 1890. The mother of the above family died August 12, 1894. Mr. Krugh was married (second) to Mrs. Lydia Shady, widow of Isaac Shady and daughter of Samuel and Mary (Swift) Brookhart, the latter of whom died August 25, 1894. Mr. Brookhart still survives and lives on a farm in Hopewell township.

Milton O. Krugh accompanied his parents when they located, in 1876, on the farm one mile southeast of Marion, where they lived for two years, then removing to the homestead three miles west of Mendon. On that farm he grew to maturity. His primary education was obtained in the district schools and then he attended school at Mendon for three years and later the normal school at Middlepoint, Van Wert County. He continued to study at home and rounded out a liberal education by a course at Oxford, Ohio, in 1906.

Mr. Krugh has been a teacher since 1892, when he began to teach district school, to which he devoted five years. In 1897 he was invited to Mendon and become principal of the Mendon High School, a position for which he is amply qualified. He enjoys the use of a fine, modern school building—there being six teachers in the school. There are 225 pupils in the school, 50 of these being in the High School, this being the joint High School of the village and township. As an educator he stands very high in Mercer County and is a member of a number of educational organizations.

Mr. Krugh was married to Minnie Johnson, a daughter of William H. and Margaret (Perdy) Johnson. They have five children, as follows: Hazel, Lucile, Lawrence, Josephine and an infant.

Mr. Krugh has been a resident of Mendon for the past 14 years and during this time he has been identified with its educational development to a large degree. In politics he is a Republican, and for the past six years has been justice of the peace of Union township. He was elected to the Village Council and as its leader is serving out the unexpired term of the late mayor, L. A. Barber. He is a prominent, useful and representative citizen.

HENRY HAGEMAN

Henry Hageman, one of the leading citizens and most prosperous farmers of Butler township, owning a magnificent farm of 494 acres situated in sections 27 and 34, and also operating a farm of 99 acres belonging to his wife, which is situated in Granville township, was born January 26, 1837, in Germany. His parents were Joseph and Anna Maria Elizabeth (Hamesauth) Hageman.

The Hageman family crossed the Atlantic Ocean in 1837, making the long voyage of seven and a half weeks in a sailing vessel. They landed at Baltimore and then came on to Cincinnati, and from there by wagon, to Minster, Auglaize County, where they lived for two years. In 1840 they removed to Marion township and settled on a farm near St. Johns, the father

buying 40 acres of wild land on which he built a log cabin, subsequently developing a good farm.

On the above farm Henry Hageman grew to manhood, obtaining his education in the district schools. He was trained to be a practical farmer and has devoted his life to farming and stock-raising, meeting with unusual success. In 1860 Mr. Hageman was married (first) to Caroline Boeckman, who was a daughter of Henry Boeckman, an old pioneer of Marion township, who died in the fall of 1903, aged 92 years. To this marriage 12 children were born, namely: Joseph, who died when one month old; Henry, living in Oklahoma, who has one son, William; John, also a resident of Oklahoma, who has six children; Mary, who married Bennett Froning and died one year later; Elizabeth, who married Bennett Geer, lives in Texas and has seven children; Joseph (2), residing at Dayton, who has three children; Rosa, who died aged one month; Benjamin, who lives at Botkins, Shelby County, unmarried; Kate, who married George Moessinger, lives at Cincinnati and has one child; Frank, who died aged 19 years; Annie, who married Bennett Enneking, lives at Cincinnati and has one child; and Caroline, who died aged about one month. The mother of this family died February 15, 1881.

Mr. Hageman was married (second) in August, 1883, to Josephine Rose, and they have eight children, namely: Herman, residing at Dayton, who has one child, Geneva; and Louis, Urban, Etta, Dinah, Aloysius, Lena and Clara. All survive expect Clara, who died at the age of six years.

In 1871, Mr. Hageman removed from St. Johns to his present home farm, on which he first erected a frame house, but later replaced it with the handsome brick one which was completed in 1895. It is one of the finest as well as most comfortable homes in the township. He carries on general farming in a way that insures abundant crops and his methods are often adopted by his neighbors. Mr. Hageman is a worthy member of the Catholic Church.

GEORGE W. BROWN

George W. Brown, a substantial citizen of Butler township, who resides upon his well-improved farm of 160 acres in section 14, and owns also 11 additional acres in Jefferson township, was born in Clermont County, Ohio, February 13, 1831, and is a son of William and Mary Ann (Riggs) Brown.

William Brown was born in Clermont County, Ohio, where he was educated, married and passed a long life. His wife died when George W. was a child of two years. An older brother, William, who was killed in the front

of the regiment at the battle of Lookout Mountain, was fifer in the 148th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf.

George W. Brown was 21 years of age when he came to Mercer County, purchasing his present home farm at that time, which was then in its natural condition. He located on his property on March 8, 1862, finding it already inhabited by deer, wild hogs, pheasants, squirrels and snakes, neighbors he very soon disposed of as he began the rapid clearing of the land. This work was interrupted, for in 1863 he enlisted in Company I, 156th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., for the 100-day service. After it was completed, he reenlisted, entering Company D, 193rd Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf. Good fortune attended him and he passed harmlessly through the battles of Harper's Ferry and Cumberland City, Maryland; Cynthiana, Kentucky; and many skirmishes. After the Rebellion had been subdued he returned to his farm and resumed his agricultural operations. He has made many substantial improvements here and has adequate and comfortable buildings of all kinds. In contrast to the new structures is the old barn still standing, which was built in 1866, probably the oldest in the township. Mr. Brown carries on general farming and raised at one time large numbers of hogs and cattle.

George W. Brown was married to Rachel Arthur, a daughter of James Arthur, and they have had eight children, namely: Roland, who lives at home although he owns a farm of 80 acres given by his father; George B., who lives at home, also owning a farm of 80 acres given by his father; Ella, who lives at home; Emma, who married Irvin Hole and has two daughters; Rosa, who married William Coate of Celina, and has one child, Elva; Minnie, who lives at home; Clemmie, who married Harlow Burdge; and one child died in infancy.

Mr. Brown has always taken a prominent part in township affairs as becomes a good citizen, and he has frequently been elected to offices of responsibility. He has served on the School Board, has been township clerk, land appraiser, viewer and supervisor.

JOHN GIESEKE

John Gieseke, one of Franklin township's substantial citizens, who resides on a fine farm of 120 acres located in section 2, was born in Auglaize County, Ohio, March 10, 1860, and is a son of William and Margaret (Schierholt) Gieseke.

William Gieseke was born in Germany, came to America with his father, Henry Gieseke, when about 11 years old, and with his parents settled at New Bremen, Ohio. Henry Gieseke was the father of six children, namely: Flora,

Minnie, Frederick, Henry, William and Lenora. William Gieseke in young manhood drove a team for some time on a canal boat, before settling down to farming, but when 22 years old he purchased a farm of 40 acres east of New Bremen, which he subsequently sold, and in 1864 bought the farm of 120 acres now occupied by his son John.

At New Bremen he married Margaret Schierholt, and they had five children, namely: Christian, who married Amelia Backhaus and lives in Hopewell township; John; William, who lives with his brother John; Amelia, deceased at the age of three years; and Emma, who is the widow of William Hartwick. William Gieseke and his wife live with their daughter, Mrs. Hartwick, at New Bremen.

John Gieseke was four years old when his parents moved to Mercer County and located on the farm, on which he has since remained. He is now manager of this farm, which is one of the finest in its section of the county, and is improved with substantial buildings. A beautiful hedge bordering the driveway adds much to the attractiveness of the place.

Mr. Gieseke was married November 11, 1886, to Josephine Dicke, a daughter of William and Dora (Wrisenback) Dicke, natives of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Dicke came to America before their marriage, which was celebrated at New Bremen. They have had nine children, as follows: William, Henry, Julius, Anna, Josephine, Florentina, Alvinea, Emma and Louise, the last named deceased in infancy. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Gieseke, namely: Seraphine, deceased at the age of two years; Dora, Melinda, Lawrence, Arnold, Benjamin and Milton. Both Mr. and Mrs. Gieseke are members of the Lutheran Church.

ANDREW X. WALTER

Andrew X. Walter, a well-known, substantial citizen of Coldwater, who has been engaged in the manufacture of brick at this place for some 14 years, was born December 21, 1858, in Germany, and is a son of Andrew and Catherine Walter.

The Walter family came to America when Andrew X. was seven years old and settled first in Seneca County, Ohio, the father renting a farm not far from Tiffin. On this the family lived from 1865 until 1873, when they came to Mercer County, at which time the father bought a farm of 80 acres in Butler township. The mother died in 1890, but the father still survives and resides at Coldwater. They had nine children and seven of these are still living.

Andrew X. Walter was educated in the district schools of Seneca County and was 15 years of age when his father settled in Butler township. He

continued to carry on farming until 1892 when he engaged in manufacturing brick. His plant covers eight acres and is a large and important industry of the place, its capacity being 20,000 brick per day. In addition to his brick plant, Mr. Walter owns the handsome brick building on Main street, where he resides, and also the frame building which is occupied by the People's Bank.

In 1882 Mr. Walter was married to Mary Gast, a daughter of Ferdinand Gast, and they have had six children, namely: Catherine, a successful teacher in the Coldwater schools, who graduated from the Coldwater High School and has been a teacher for some years both in Seneca and Mercer counties, spending her vacations at Oxford College, Oxford, Ohio; Edward and Julian, who died young; Albert, residing at home; Ferdinand, a student in the Coldwater High School; and Alvena, who is attending the village schools.

Mr. Walter has never been a very active politician but he was elected township treasurer while living in the country and served in that office for four years. He is a member of the Catholic Church. He belongs to the Catholic Knights of Ohio.

F. A. FRANKS

F. A. Franks, mayor of Coldwater, who is the owner of a successful tailoring business, was born at Cairo, Illinois, October 8, 1866, and is a son of Joseph and Anna (Vandelft) Franks.

In his childhood, his parents moved to Minster, Ohio, where his father died, leaving him and a brother, Joseph, now residing in Cincinnati. The mother married (second) Henry Bowman, and at her death, in 1871 left a son, Charles, also residing in Cincinnati.

In 1870 F. A. Franks accompanied his mother to Cincinnati where he was placed in the Orphans' Home. There he was educated and taught the tailor's trade. When 16 years of age he came to Mercer County and worked on a farm in Butler township until he was 21 years old, and then established himself as a tailor at Montpelier, Indiana. After six years in Montpelier, in 1895, he came to Coldwater and embarked in a general tailoring business.

Mr. Franks has always taken an interest in politics and has been identified with the Democratic party ever since his majority, and has been very active in public affairs since coming to Coldwater. His firm position on some local questions of importance resulted in his being chosen the standard-bearer of the Democrats and his election to the mayoralty in 1898. He gave the village so excellent an administration that, although against his wish, he was elected a second time in 1905.

In 1890 Mr. Franks was married in Butler township, to Pauline Will, a

daughter of George and Barbara Will, and they have had seven children, namely: Stella, George, Charles, Mary, Martha (deceased at the age of two weeks), William and Robert. Mr. Franks is a member of the Catholic Church and carefully rears his family in that faith. Fraternally he is an Eagle.

Mayor Franks is an example of a self-made man. Left an orphan in childhood, he had no home surroundings in early youth and from the age of 16 years has made his own way in the world with a manly independence which commands respect. He has not only secured a prominent place in the business world, but has so gained the confidence and esteem of his fellow-citizens that they have twice given him the highest position in the village's gift.

REV. ANTHONY C. TABKE

Rev. Anthony C. Tabke, pastor of the Most Precious Blood Catholic Church, at Chickasaw, was born February 24, 1873, in Bakum, Oldenburg, Germany, and is a son of Clemens and Bernardina (Westendorf) Tabke.

The parents of Father Tabke were of German birth and ancestry. The father died in 1883, but the mother still survives and, with one son, George, who is a teacher, lives in Germany. There were five children in the family, but three died in infancy.

Father Tabke was the eldest born in his father's family. Until he was 16 years of age, the most of his time was spent at school. He then came to America and entered upon his training for the priesthood, first at Mount Calvary, Wisconsin, then at St. Meinrad, in Indiana, and then at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, at Cincinnati. He was ordained in 1899 and his first charge was at Holy Trinity, Dayton, Ohio, and then he was sent to St. Augustine, at Cincinnati, where he remained for three and a half years. In October, 1903, he became the first pastor of the Church of the Most Precious Blood, at Chickasaw.

Father Tabke found here a comfortable church edifice which had been remodeled in 1903, but which he has found many ways to improve. In 1904 he built a parsonage at a cost of about $4,000. His congregation consists of 70 German families and he ministers to their spiritual needs with the zeal and faithfulness of a true priest. In his own congregation he is honored and beloved and outside it he is held in high esteem. Where there is need of charity and benevolence, he may be found taking an active interest, making himself a valued citizen of the place where duty has stationed him.

HENRY HOYNG

HENRY HOYNG, a highly-esteemed resident of Coldwater, who owns a fine farm of 80 acres in section 34, Butler township, was born in Shelby County, Ohio, January 28, 1842, and is a son of Frederick and Mary (Stervolt) Hoyng.

Henry Hoyng was reared in Shelby County and farmed for his father until 1868, when he came to Mercer County, purchasing a farm of 80 acres adjoining the one he now owns. Some 20 acres had been cleared and a good, two-story frame dwelling had been built, but all the subsequent clearing and improving were done by Mr. Hoyng himself, after which he sold and bought the old home place of his father-in-law, consisting of 80 acres. He carried on general farming and stock-raising until 1899, enjoying the independent life of a successful agriculturist. He then bought a house and an acre of land, at Coldwater, and removed with his wife to the village.

Mr. Hoyng was married in 1868 to Catherine Kallmeyer, who is a daughter of Henry Kallmeyer, a native of Germany. Mrs. Hoyng was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, and was brought to Mercer County when she was six years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Hoyng have had 10 children, namely: Henry, who married Anna Lukens and is operating his 80-acre farm in Butler township; Frederick, who married Rosa Kirsch and is a painter and paperhanger at Coldwater; John, who married Matilda Walter and lives on his farm of 40 acres in Butler township; Louis, who married Mary Steggemann, and lives on his father's farm; Joseph, who married Lizzie Pleiman and conducts a tinshop and implement store at Coldwater; Frank, a painter and paperhanger, who resides at home; Roman, who works with his brother in the tinshop; Herman, who died aged 16 years; Frances, who died aged two years; and Edward, who died aged one year. Mr. and Mrs. Hoyng have reared a fine, capable family of sons, all of whom are prosperous. They have been brought up in the faith of the Catholic Church, of which Mr. and Mrs. Hoyng are consistent members.

WILLIAM CURRY

WILLIAM CURRY, a well-known citizen of Coldwater, formerly a prominent farmer and stockraiser in Washington township, still owns a fine farm in section 35, consisting of 137½ acres. He was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, May 9, 1844, and is a son of Alexander and Sarah (Boyd) Curry.

Although Mr. Curry is of Scotch birth, the family is of Irish extraction, both parents having been born in Ireland, where they lived until after their marriage. The father then removed to Scotland, where he was employed on

a railroad for nine years. In 1848, when William Curry was four years old, the parents emigrated to America, and they were accompanied by their four children, namely: Sarah, who is the wife of Thomas McIntire, a farmer in Randolph County, Illinois; Samuel, who died in St. Clair County, Illinois, in 1890; Mary, who married George Jameson and died in 1900, in Washington township; and William.

After coming to America the Curry family settled at Utica, Ohio, where the father was employed in railroad construction, helping to build what is now the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, which was then known as the Newark & Sandusky Railroad. They remained at Utica until 1867, when William Curry came to Mercer County in order to look the land over with an idea of investment, his father having contracted, about 1866, to buy 20 acres of land in Washington township. As he was not ready to make payment at the appointed time, William took the obligation and purchased the land. The father, mother, Mary and William came to the new home, making the journey in a covered wagon. They found some 10 acres cleared and a log house standing, with but few other improvements. William subsequently purchased another 20 acres and this has always been retained as the home place, and here the mother passed away, her death taking place on the 24th of October, 1880. The father survived until the 23d of February, 1890, dying when he was 85 years of age.

William Curry attended school at Utica in his boyhood and is a well-informed man. Since coming to Mercer County he has given his whole attention to farming and stock-raising, making a special feature of raising thoroughbred cattle and sheep. He continued to add to his land until in 1904 he had 217¾ acres. He has always been a man of great industry and his efforts have been crowned with success. He is ever seeking the best methods in the care of his land and stock, and as an agriculturist he stands among the foremost.

On November 18, 1873, Mr. Curry was united in marriage with Florinda Kantzer, a daughter of Theobald Kantzer, and they have had two daughters, Sarah Elizabeth and Mary Letitia. The former died November 17, 1895, aged 20 years. She was a beautiful, amiable young woman and her death was a severe blow to the family. The younger daughter resides at home. Until March, 1901, Mr. Curry remained on the farm; since then the family has occupied a comfortable home at Coldwater, where they are highly respected residents. For many years in the country, Mr. Curry served as school director, and he was always ready to help along in developing and improving his neighborhood. Formerly, before the United Presbyterian Church in Washington township became disorganized, he was one of its leading members.

ENOS NICHOLAS DRAKE

Enos Nicholas Drake, a representative citizen of Union township, residing on a well-developed farm in section 8, was born on the Enos Allen farm in Dublin township, where his mother was visiting her parents at the time of his birth; the home of his parents at the time was located in section 8, Union township. He is a son of Joseph and Phoebe (Allen) Drake.

Joseph Drake was born in England, near Liverpool, and resided for many years near Liverpool and also in the vicinity of London. He later moved with his parents to Canada, where his father died. Mr. Drake is about 83 years of age; the date of his birth is not known exactly, as the home of his parents, with the record of births, was destroyed by fire. He was married to Phoebe Allen while still a resident of Canada, and later moved to Mercer County, Ohio, settling in 1856, in Union township, on an unimproved and uncleared farm of 45 acres adjoining the farm of 35 acres where he now resides; as he is still the owner of the first mentioned property, his present farm consists of 80 acres. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Drake, namely: Jane, who married Murray Heath and resides on a farm in Union township; Enos Nicholas; Sarah, who resides at home with her father; Hannah, deceased; Alexander, a blacksmith by trade, living at Mendon, who married Alice Protzman; and Edward J., a dealer in agricultural implements at Mendon, who married Lizzie Martin. Mrs. Drake's death occurred in 1899 in her 63rd year.

Enos N. Drake was reared in Union township and attended the district schools. In 1879 he took a trip overland to Kansas, driving through in a covered wagon and being accompanied by his father and family. They settled in Osborne County, near the county seat, Osborne. On account of hot winds and failure of crops, they only remained one year. While there the oldest child, Osborne Kansas, was born. Mr. Drake has lived on his present 80-acre farm since 1881. He also owns a 60-acre farm one mile and a half west of where he resides. In 1901 he built a fine modern barn on his present farm and one year later erected one on the other farm. His fine new residence which was erected in 1905 is one of the most modern and up-to-date homes in the township, supplied with all the modern conveniences.

Mr. Drake was married June 30, 1878, to Elizabeth Youngblutt, a daughter of Charles and Lydia (Young) Youngblutt, of Van Wert County, Ohio. Nine children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Drake, namely: Osborne Kansas, who married Irene Wharton, a daughter of Jesse Wharton, of Mendon; Otto, Gertrude, Elmer, Cora, Ray, Earl, Ora Belle (deceased), and Elry. Mr. Drake is a Republican in politics. He has served on the

School Board of Union township for 12 years. He is a member of Mendon Lodge, No. 750, I. O. O. F.

HENRY C. FOX

Henry C. Fox, general merchant and member of the milling and elevator firm of Fox & Hess, is one of the leading business men of Coldwater. He was born in Washington township, Mercer County, Ohio, April 26, 1860, and is a son of Mathias and Barbara (Weigel) Fox.

Mathias Fox was born in Prussia, Germany, and when a boy of 17 years accompanied his parents to America. They settled on a farm in Seneca County, near Tiffin, where Mathias Fox married. About 1850 he removed to Mercer County, locating in Washington township. In 1868 he removed to Jay County, Indiana, where he died in 1876, and his wife in 1878. Of their 11 children, six still survive, namely: John, residing in Butler township; Henry C.; Joseph, residing at Cincinnati; Benjamin, residing at Dayton; Charles, residing at Indianapolis; and Sophia, wife of Charles Hess, residing at Coldwater. Those who died were: Mary, at the age of 47 years; Elizabeth; Margaret, who was known as Sister Blanche, in a convent at Quincy, Illinois, at the age of 52 years; George, at the age of 49 years; and Mathias, at the age of 18 years. Mary, who was the first born of the family, was married (first) to Max Stark, and (second) to Mathias Renn.

When Henry C. Fox was eight years old, his parents removed to Jay County, Indiana, and there he resided until 19 years of age. After completing his district school education, he entered the Ohio Normal University at Ada, remaining three terms, and for one term was a student at Lebanon, Ohio. Upon his return to Coldwater, he taught school for some nine years, becoming one of the most popular of the public school teachers in the county. In 1889 he started the general mercantile establishment known as the H. C. Fox store, in a building in the west part of the town, but in the fall of 1889, after six months in the old structure, he moved into a building he had purchased and improved until it was adapted to his purposes. He continued to become interested in the town's important enterprises, was made president of the People's Bank, and entered into partnership with Charles Hess in a mill and elevator business at Coldwater and St. Henry, under the firm name of Fox & Hess. He has demonstrated high qualities commercially and enjoys the confidence of the business community.

In 1885 Mr. Fox was married to Rosa Schockman, and they have eight children, viz.: Norah, a graduate of the Coldwater High School and of the Ursaline Convent at Tiffin, Ohio, who is now engaged in teaching in Butler township; Urban, a graduate of the Coldwater High School, who is now a

pupil at St. Joseph's College, at Collegeville, Indiana; Leo, who is a student in the Coldwater High School; Frances, Anna and Agnes, who are attending school; and Henry Paul and Raymond. The family belong to the Catholic Church.

Mr. Fox occupies a seat in the Village Council of Coldwater, and his advice as a man of business perception concerning village government is highly valued. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of St. John, of Coldwater, and to the Lima Council, Knights of Columbus.

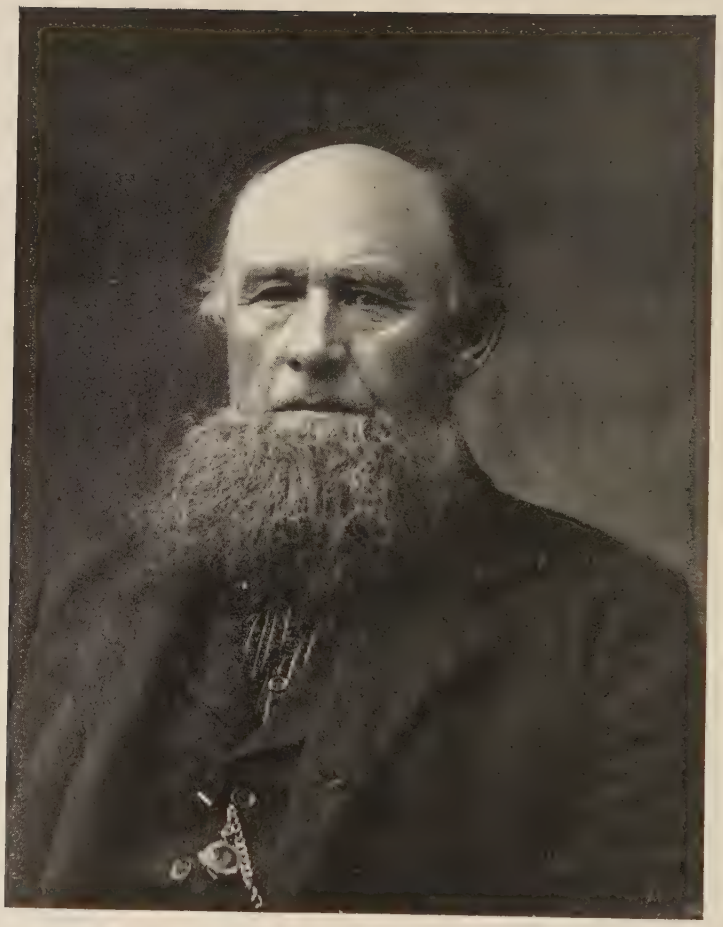
CHRISTOPHER F. BOLMAN, M. D.

Christopher F. Bolman, M. D., physician and surgeon at Coldwater, where he has been established since 1881, was born at Fort Wayne, Indiana, October 26, 1847, and is a son of Christopher and Charlotte (Bloom) Bolman.

Christopher Bolman was one of the pioneer merchants of Fort Wayne and a leading citizen, and there Dr. Bolman, as a youth, was educated, first in the public and later in private schools. Having a natural leaning toward mechanics, he then learned the machinist's trade, at which he worked for nearly 13 years and during this period he assisted in building the old town clock at the Fort Wayne Court-House. He read medicine with a local practitioner and thus prepared to enter the medical college at Fort Wayne, where he was graduated in 1881. After a short period of medical work at Fort Wayne, he came to Coldwater, where he had been ever since and where he now commands a large practice, and enjoys the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens.

In 1874, at Fort Wayne, Indiana, Dr. Bolman was married to Susan E. Lewis, a daughter of Washington Lewis, of Bluffton, Indiana. They have had four children, namely: Elsie, wife of Theodore Campbell, of Mansfield, Ohio; Lydia F., widow of Edward Taylor, a captain in the United States Army during the Spanish-American War, formerly a lawyer at Evansville, Indiana, who died of fever while in the service; Ralph Martin; and Susan, who married Joseph Burkmeyer of Coldwater. Ralph Martin is now a practicing surgeon of considerable repute, at Fort Wayne, Indiana; he was educated in the Coldwater public schools, the Ohio Normal University at Ada, later at the normal school at Lebanon, Ohio, and completed his medical course at the Fort Wayne Medical College.

Dr. Bolman served in 1902-03 as president of the Mercer County Medical Society and is well and favorably known in various medical organizations in the State. For 18 years he has been a member of the School Board at Coldwater, and is a member of the present Village Council.



HARMAN HENRY SCHWIETERMANN

HARMAN HENRY SCHWIETERMANN

HARMAN HENRY SCHWIETERMANN, whose fine farm of 128 acres is situated in sections 22 and 23, Franklin township, was born September 14, 1842, in Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Harman Arnold and Maria (Broaman) Schwietermann.

The parents of Mr. Schwietermann were both born in Germany. They both died in Ohio, the father in 1860, and the mother in 1869. They had these children: Gerhard, who was born in Germany, and married Josephine Munning; John Henry, the first child of the family born in America, married Mary Meinerding, and they now live on a farm adjoining that of our subject; Harman Henry, who was the third in order of birth; J. Bernard, who married Catherine Depweg, and came into possession of the home farm, which he later sold and moved to Carthagena; Mary, who married Henry Gast and died at Chickasaw; Elizabeth, deceased; John, who married Mary Froning—both now deceased; William, who married Anna Fiely and lives at Cranberry Prairie; Anna, who married John Dorston and died in Franklin township; and Joseph, who married Elizabeth Ronnebaum and lives on a farm near that of our subject.

Our subject lost his father when he was 18 years of age, and he remained with his mother until her death, nine years later. All the sons worked on the home farm and all accumulated enough to purchase farms of their own. Harman Henry bought his farm in 1864, while his brother J. Bernard took the homestead on which his parents had settled when they came from Germany, in 1837. This was a farm of 80 acres in Marion township, for which the father paid the sum of $500. On this farm nine of the children were born, and the father worked it for 23 years; making it a valuable property. He assisted also in the building of the banks of the Grand Reservoir, this being one of the largest artificial bodies of water in the world.

Harman Henry Schwietermann was married in 1871, to Anna Bertke, a daughter of Barney Bertke, who was a resident of Mercer County for many years. Mr. Bertke was born in Germany, married in America and had these children: John, who married Josephine Clune; Anna, wife of our subject; Mary, who married Barney Knapke and lives near Maria Stein; Mathias, who married Mary Puthoff, and lives on the Bertke home farm near Maria Stein; Barney, who married Catherine Knapke and lives at Cranberry Prairie; Frances, who married Peter Niekamp, and lives near Chickasaw; and Elizabeth, who married Barney Fehorn and lives on a farm near Maria Stein.

Mr. and Mrs. Schwietermann have had children, namely: Elizabeth, who died when 10 months old; Barney, who is married and lives in Ohio; Xavier, a resident of Mercer County, who is married and has one child;

Frances, who married Charles Fleck, of Celina, lives at Covington, Kentucky, and has one son and one daughter—Lawrence and Edith; Mathias, who is studying for the Catholic priesthood at St. Charles Seminary, Carthagena; and Rose, Eleanora, Maria and Romey, all of whom are at home. This family is one to reflect great credit upon its parents, growing up industrious and intelligent and taking respected places in society. They have all enjoyed good school advantages.

Mr. Schwietermann's farm is crossed by the Schwietermann turnpike, his name having been given it on account of the hard fight he made to get this public improvement. His land has been found rich in gas and he secured $1,000 for one well that was drilled on his farm. With four other families, he has put in a system by which all have the use of gas in their homes and the same parties have installed a telephone system. These modern improvements make country life very enjoyable and very different from what it was when Mr. Schwietermann was young. His handsome brick residence is shaded and surrounded by an orchard of cherry and apple trees, while a beautiful hedge fence surrounds the whole.

Mr. Schwietermann has long been considered one of the representative men of his neighborhood, and he has frequently been elected to offices of trust and responsibility in the township. He has served as school director and as supervisor, for eight years was trustee of Franklin township, for over six years was one of the commissioners of Mercer County, during which period many public improvements were made, and in 1904 he was elected treasurer of the School Board, an office he still fills. As a business man and honest and capable public official, Mr. Schwietermann stands out prominently in Franklin township. He is a consistent member of the Catholic Church. His portrait accompanies this sketch.

REV. FRANK P. CORDIER

Rev. Frank P. Cordier, residing on his well-cultivated farm of 118¾ acres, in sections 9 and 10, Jefferson township, with 38¾ acres in Butler township, is one of the successful agriculturists of this part of Mercer County. He was born in Granville township, Mercer County, Ohio, July 16, 1855, and is a son of John Adam and Hannah (Golder) Cordier.

John Adam Cordier was born in Germany and was seven years of age when he accompanied his parents to America. They settled at New Bremen, Auglaize County, Ohio, where he was reared and educated. After his marriage he moved to Mercer County and died at the age of 42 years. His wife still survives. They had six children, the survivors being: Elizabeth, wife of Robert Hart; Frank P., of this sketch; Mrs. Annie Davis and Mrs. Kate

Coate. Mrs. Ellen Patton and Martha Jane are the deceased members of the family.

Frank P. Cordier was reared and educated in Granville township, where he lived until he reached his majority, when he removed to Butler township, where shortly afterward he was married to Mary E. Coate, daughter of Benjamin Coate, and settled on the farm which is still their home. They have had 10 children and all survive with the exception of the eldest, Mary, who died when eight years of age. The others are: Martha, who married Ralph Monroe and has one child, Helen; Kate, wife of David Baker, living in Montgomery County, Ohio; and George A., Joseph Benjamin, Harriet, Jenett, Ruth, Sarah and Fannie, all living at home.

Mr. Cordier has made many improvements on his farm since settling here and has everything snug and comfortable around him. In addition to looking after his farming interests in a very capable manner he also serves the German Baptist Brethren Church in the northern part of Butler township, as a minister. He is very much esteemed by a large congregation.

HENRY GAUS

Henry Gaus, one of the highly respected German-American citizens of Butler township, residing on his fine farm of 325 acres situated in sections 17 and 18, was born in Hanover, Germany, March 31, 1849, and is a son of Ludwig and Dorothea Gaus.

When Henry Gaus was seven years old, his parents decided to come to America and locate in Ohio, where relatives were already doing well. On Christmas Eve, 1856, the family landed in the city of New York, in the midst of a snowstorm that made further transportation almost impossible for a short time. The travelers found difficulty in making their way to Shelby County, but finally reached Sidney and secured sleds to New Bremen. The distance to the home of their relatives was still four and a half miles, and this they walked, through the biting cold of the New Year, finding a hearty, old-country welcome, however, at its end.

Ludwig Gaus bought 20 acres of land from his brother-in-law, as a beginning, and later, 40 acres, of Mr. Beezil, the banker, and subsequently 50 acres more, of Jacob Powell. A log house was built and the family made itself very comfortable while clearing the land. By 1880 Mr. Gaus had placed his farm of 90 acres in such fine condition that he received the sum of $4,500 for it, and he then removed to Butler township, Mercer County. Here he purchased 205 acres, borrowing a portion of the money from his daughters, but placing the land in the name of Henry Gaus, a transaction that was

approved many years since. These two sisters still survive and are: Mrs. Dorothea Horret, of Celina; and Mrs. Caroline Hammel, of Plymouth, Indiana. In 1892 Henry Gaus erected the handsome large brick residence.

On October 21, 1874, Henry Gaus was married to Wilhelmina Keck and they have a family of eight children, as follows: Henry, living on a farm of 60 acres owned by his father, who married Maud Smith and has three children—Orville, Beulah and Mildred; Lewis, who married Mary Brandon and has one child—Mabel Marie; George, who lives at home; Louisa, who married Henry Hammel and has one daughter, Ethel; Clara, who married Henry Steele and has one child, Walter; and John, Arthur and Cora, all at home.

Mr. Gaus and family belong to the Lutheran Church in which he has served for four years as an elder. He is one of the leading citizens of Butler township and is a member of the School Board.

J. H. WINKELJOHAN

J. H. Winkeljohan, lumber dealer at Celina, is one of the prospering men of this city where he has been established since 1894. He was born in Germany in 1863, was educated there and learned the carpenter's trade before coming to America in 1882. He is a son of Mathias and Katherine (Tebbe) Winkeljohan, natives of Hanover, Prussia, the father born September 26, 1835, and the mother, December 24, 1838. They came to the United States in 1892 and reside in Celina. They are the parents of 12 children, of whom 11 survive; all reside in the United States.

Shortly after reaching the United States, Mr. Winkeljohan located at St. Henry, Mercer County, and worked there as a carpenter and contractor for about seven years and then became connected with the St. Henry flouring mills. After working in the mills for a time, he purchased a half interest, and later was engaged for some two years in buying and shipping timber. In 1894 Mr. Winklejohan came to Celina and became associated with the Kuntz & Herr Lumber Company, and in the following year he became a member of the firm, the business later being incorporated as The P. Kuntz & Herr Lumber Company, with a capital stock of $5,000. The officers were: Peter Kuntz, president; C. E. Wright, vice-president; Charles J. Herr, secretary and treasurer; B. Romer, director; and J. H. Winkeljohan, manager. The present officers are: Peter Kuntz, president; B. Romer, vice-president; and J. H. Winkeljohan, treasurer and manager. Mr. Winkeljohan is the only resident member of the firm. The company also operates a branch yard at

St. Henry, dealing in hard and soft lumber and all kinds of building materials.

In addition to this large business, Mr. Winkeljohan is interested in the Mendon Lumber Company, in farm lands in Mercer County and owns valuable property in Celina.

In 1891 Mr. Winkeljohan was married (first) to Anna M. Meinerding, who died the following year, and in 1894 he was married (second) to Rebecca A. Romer, a daughter of B. Romer, of St. Henry, a member of one of the oldest families in Mercer County. They have five children, viz.: Agnes, Lucile, Ferdinand, Lillie and Hilda. Our subject is one of the leading members of the Catholic Church at Celina, and belongs to the Knights of St. John, the Catholic Knights of Ohio and to St. Joseph's Society.

REV. ABITHER DAVID COATE

Rev. Abither David Coate, an extensive farmer and representative citizen of Mercer County, resides on a finely-cultivated farm of 120 acres, in section 15, Butler township, on which he has made many improvements. He also owns a farm of 80 acres in section 10, Jefferson township. Mr. Coate was born in Butler township, Mercer County, Ohio, March 10, 1851, and is a son of Benjamin and Mary (Yaney) Coate.

Benjamin Coate was born at Ludlow Falls, Miami County, Ohio, and was a son of Joseph Coate, an old resident of Miami County. Benjamin Coate was about 10 years of age when his father entered land in Mercer County, and Benjamin did the same when he reached his majority. Seven children were born to Benjamin Coate and wife, and four of these still survive, namely: Abither David; Noah, of Butler township; Mary E., wife of Rev. F. P. Cordier, of Jefferson township; and William, of Celina.

Abither David Coate was reared and attended school in Butler township and his occupation in life has always been farming. For a number of years he has been pastor of the German Baptist Brethren Church, in the northern part of Butler township, and is very highly esteemed by his congregation.

On March 10, 1879, Mr. Coate was married to Harriet Barker, a daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Strait) Barker. They have had five children, viz.: Maggie P., who is the wife of Riley T. Waggoner, of Butler township, and the mother of one child, Irma Fern; Ida, who resides at home; Otto J., who died at the age of two years; Homer; and a babe that died in infancy. The family have resided in the residence in which they live, ever since Mr. and Mrs. Coate started to housekeeping, and naturally they are much attached to it. Here the children have been born and here some have died, and

all the family joys and sorrows have been enjoyed or endured around the old hearth-stone. On many occasions it is the scene of pleasant family reunions.

Mr. Coate has always been a Democrat but has never accepted any political office except that of township trustee, in which he served for two terms, to the benefit of the community.

ANTON MESCHER

Anton Mescher, proprietor of the Mescher dairy and the owner of 80 acres of rich farming land situated in section 28, Butler township, is one of the substantial men of this part of the county. Mr. Mescher was born in Marion township, Mercer County, Ohio, February 16, 1852, and is a son of Bernard and Katherine (Tangemann) Mescher.

Bernard Mescher was born in Germany and came to America at the age of 18 years. He made his way to Mercer County, where he worked for several years on the canal then in course of construction, and then settled near Maria Stein. His wife was about 18 months old when she was brought to America by her parents who were pioneers in this part of Mercer County. Both parents of Mr. Mescher died in Marion township.

Anton Mescher was reared in Marion township and was educated in the district schools. He was trained to be a practical farmer and his father recognized his ability to operate a farm of his own, when he was still a young man, and purchased the present farm in Butler township for him. Anton settled on his property in the year preceding his marriage and has resided here ever since, carrying on extensive farming and successfully operating a dairy. He has continued to improve his property and has erected a handsome brick residence and substantial barns and other buildings.

In 1882 Mr. Mescher was married to Mary Fischer, a daughter of Henry Fischer. Mr. and Mrs. Mescher have eight children, namely: Henry, Louis, John, Elizabeth, Catherine, Margaret, Bernard and Susan. Mr. Mescher has given his children good educational advantages and has also reared them carefully in the Catholic Church. His sons are members of the Knights of St. John. They all stand very high in public esteem, being noted for their industry and good citizenship.

THE FORT RECOVERY STIRRUP COMPANY

The Fort Recovery Stirrup Company, manufacturers of bent wood and metal bound saddle stirrups, the largest exclusive manufacturers of wood stirrups in the world, and the leading manufacturing establishment of Fort

Recovery, was organized in 1899 by William Koch, president of the company, and his son Edward, who is secretary and general manager. The company employs from 18 to 20 men. Previous to its establishment, the building now occupied by the company was used as a tannery, which was owned and operated by William Koch.

William Koch was born January 31, 1834, in Prussia, Germany, and is a son of Frederick Koch, a farmer by occupation, who emigrated to America in 1845, locating at New Bremen, Ohio, where he died in 1856. William Koch moved to St. Marys when 18 years old and subsequently learned the tanner's trade at New Bremen, Ohio. He worked at his trade for seven years in St. Marys. In 1864 he moved to Fort Recovery where he opened a tannery, in which business he continued until the establishment of the stirrup company, in 1899.

Mr. Koch was married in 1857 to Dorothea Backhaus, a daughter of Henry Backhaus. To Mr. and Mrs. Koch 10 children were born, six of whom are still living. The record is as follows: Lucilla, who married Charles Schneider; William, who died in childhood; Julia, deceased; Frank, who lives at Lima, Ohio; Minnie, who married William Heiby; Flora; Edward; Carrie, and two children that died in infancy. Edward Koch, who is secretary and manager of the Fort Recovery Stirrup Company, was married in 1901 to Matilda Frommel, a daughter of Edward Frommel. Mr. Koch is a member of Pisgah Congregational Church of Fort Recovery, and a member of the Fort Recovery Village Council.

DAVID A. BEAMS

David A. Beams, formerly mayor of Coldwater, and one of the leading citizens of Butler township, owns 176 2-3 acres of fine farming land in section 20. Mr. Beams was born in Butler township, Mercer County, Ohio, August 4, 1847, and is a son of David and Margaret (Eaton) Beams.

David Beams was born in Pennsylvania. When he attained his majority he came to Ohio and located at Piqua, where he married. In March, 1847, a few months before the birth of our subject, he removed to Mercer County where he acquired 240 acres of land in Butler township, east of Coldwater. He was a son of Col. Martin Bowen Beams, who commanded a German regiment during the War of 1812, and who died of yellow fever in Williams County, Ohio, while on his way home after the close of the war. His two brothers, Martin and John, were among the founders of the United Brethren Church in this locality.

David A. Beams was reared in Butler township and was educated in the

district schools. After completing his education, he taught school for one year in Missouri, all of the family, with the exception of the youngest sister, having been successful teachers during their youth. With the exception of this one year, Mr. Beams has always lived in Mercer County, and has always devoted himself to agricultural pursuits, not, however, to the exclusion of all other interests. He has served as mayor of Coldwater, and also as constable, and is well and favorably known all over the county. Mr. Beams has resided on his present fine farm since March, 1903, just prior to this having sold a farm of 160 acres in Lancaster County, Nebraska.

In 1877 Mr. Beams was married to Malinda Kester, a daughter of John Kester, and they have seven children, namely: Lawrence A., who married Blanche Fell, lives in Washington township and has one child; Laura, who married George Bailey and has three children; John, who resides at home, unmarried; Flora, who is the wife of Del Cummins and the mother of one child; and Ross, David, and Lily Echo, still at home.

ROBERSON GREEN BURCH

Roberson Green Burch, one of the excellent farmers for which Butler township is justly noted, resides on a fine property of 116 acres located in section 23. He was born in this township, July 17, 1842, and is a son of Barton F. and Catherine (Allen) Burch.

The Burch family is of English ancestry and was founded in America at an early day by some seven brothers of the name who located in the State of New York. Zebulon Burch, the grandfather of Roberson G., was an old and substantial resident of New York and there lived to the age of 71 years.

Barton F. Burch came to Ohio from New York and located on a farm near Cincinnati, where he was subsequently married to Catherine Allen. Her father, Joseph Allen, a native of England, settled first in Maryland upon coming to this country, later removing to Ohio. About 1840 Barton F. Burch came to Mercer County and rented farming land for some years, but later entered 80 acres, paying $1.25 an acre for the same. This tract he cleared, built a comfortable log cabin and with the help of his sons, improved the land into a fine, productive farm, on which he died July 16, 1871, when almost 67 years old. His wife died November 1, 1876, aged 75 years.

Roberson G. Burch was reared in Butler township and passed his time until he was 21 in assisting his father and in attending the district schools. The opening of the Civil War found him ready to offer his services to his country, and as soon as he had attained his majority he did so, on October 8, 1862, entering Company H, 56th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., in which he served

for one year, participating in the siege of Vicksburg, which lasted 41 days, and in which he was seriously wounded in the left knee; and the battles of Champion Hill and Port Gibson.

After his war service was over and he had received his honorable discharge, Mr. Burch returned to Mercer County and began working on a farm by the month. He bought his first piece of property in Jay County, Indiana, which he later traded for a 40-acre tract on which his home now stands, later purchasing 80 additional acres. He carries on general farming and stock-raising.

On August 27, 1889, Mr. Burch was married to Lesta Olive. Both Mr. and Mrs. Burch are members of the Christian Church at Montezuma.

REV. HENRY GOLDSCHMIDT, C. PP. S.

Rev. Henry Goldschmidt, C. PP. S., who has been pastor of St. Paul's Catholic Church at Sharpsburg, in Gibson township, for the past seven years, was born September 11, 1866, in Baden, Germany, and is a son of John and Agnes (Seirer) Goldschmidt, who were natives of Germany, where they spent their entire lives.

Father Goldschmidt spent his early boyhood days on his father's farm, which he left when about 15 years of age to enter a professional school at Freiburg, Baden, Germany, where he remained for several years. In 1887, after leaving his position, he came to America and entered St. Charles Seminary, at Carthagena, Mercer County, Ohio, as a student, and in 1888 began to study for the priesthood. He was graduated from the seminary and ordained a priest in 1899, in which year he became assistant priest in the Catholic Church at Glandorf, Putnam County, Ohio, where he remained for six months. On August 10th of that year Father Goldschmidt took charge of St. Paul's Catholic Church at Sharpsburg, where he has since been located.

HENRY GOECKE

Henry Goecke, one of the leading business men at Maria Stein, engaged in undertaking, furniture dealing and brickmaking, who is also treasurer of St. John's Catholic Church, was born in Marion township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of John B. and Mary (Asman) Goecke.

John B. Goecke was born in Germany, May 29, 1826, and in 1835 accompanied his parents to America. They landed at Baltimore and at once came to Auglaize County, Ohio. At the age of 15 years, John B. Goecke

started to learn the carpenter's trade at Minster, and subsequently became an expert wood-carver. He made the beautiful altar of St. John's Catholic Church at Maria Stein and that of St. Mary's at Cassella. He bought land and owned the site on which the town of St. Johns is built. In a fire which destroyed his property in 1850, he lost a considerable amount, having no insurance, but he was able to leave his family in comfortable circumstances. He was a good Catholic and was a liberal, charitable man. His death occurred in 1885. Politically he was a Democrat.

In 1849 John B. Goecke married Mary Asman, who was born in Germany, and they had these children: Henry, Elizabeth, Katherine, Agnes, John, Rosa, John (2) and Joseph.

After leaving school, Henry Goecke learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked successfully. Since 1883 he has been engaged in undertaking and furniture dealing at Maria Stein. He also has a brickyard and burned the brick used in the construction of St. John's Church, the convent of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood and other buildings. Mr. Goecke also owns a hardware store. All these different lines of business are conducted carefully and he is one of the town's capitalists. He owns some 15 acres of good land and two valuable town lots in addition to his other property.

In 1876 Mr. Goecke was married to Katie Pulskamp, who was born September 10, 1855, and is a daughter of Hon. Herman and Mary (Schaffer) Pulskamp. Judge Pulskamp was born at Martzen, Germany, July 25, 1830, and at the age of 15 years accompanied his parents to New York, going from there to St. Peters, Indiana. In 1848 he moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where Herman learned the wagon-maker's trade. In 1852 Herman Pulskamp was married in Cincinnati to Mary Schaffer, who was a native of Germany and a devout Catholic. To this union were born: Katie, wife of our subject; Herman, John B., Bernard, George Edward, Mary, Louise, Joseph and Frederick. The mother of these children died July 1, 1886, and two years later, Judge Pulskamp was married to Mary A. Frey.

In 1861 Judge Pulskamp came to Maria Stein from Cincinnati. He has been justice of the peace a number of times, has also served as township clerk and in 1875 he was elected county treasurer. This necessitated his removal to Celina. In 1882 he was elected probate judge and served through two terms and held other offices. His death occurred August 21, 1891, at Celina. He was a devout member of the Catholic Church.

Mrs. Goecke resided at home until her marriage. She was carefully educated and is a lady of beautiful Christian character and the beloved mother of a large family, as follows: John H., who died July 18, 1878; Justina Maria, who married B. Tangeman, lives at Maria Stein and has two children, Leonard and Ludmilla; John Edward, who assists his father in business;

Herman Frederick, who married Louise Menker, October 17, 1906, and assists in the hardware store of his father at Maria Stein; Agnes Matilda, who died April 15, 1888; Albert John, who died June 26, 1888; Clara Ann; Anna Maria; Martina Mary, who died June 18, 1894; Hildegard Maria; and Alma Maria.

In 1887 Mr. Goecke was appointed treasurer of St. John's Church, a mark of the greatest confidence that could have been shown an intelligent, upright, able business man. He has been promiently identified with the affairs of the church for many years and can give many interesting details of its growth from a mission to its present prosperity.

In politics he is a Democrat. For 11 years he was postmaster at Maria Stein and for seven years held the office of township treasurer.

JOHN G. DUES

John G. Dues, formerly supervisor of Butler township, and one of the township's leading citizens, resides on his well-improved farm of 70 acres, situated in section 30. Mr. Dues was born October 30, 1858, in Butler township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of George and Anna Dues, extended mention of whom will be found in the sketch of our subject's brother, Barney Dues, appearing elsewhere in this volume.

J. G. Dues was reared in Butler township, which, with the exception of a period of two years, has been his home all his life. These two years were spent at Celina, where he erected a comfortable home, which he occupied during his residence at the county seat.

Following his marriage, Mr. Dues rented a farm in Butler township for a number of years. In 1899 he purchased 100 acres of land to which he subsequently added 30 acres, on which property he erected a commodious frame residence and substantial barn and other buildings. Later he sold 60 acres of his land and moved from the new buildings to his present home at the other end of the farm. Mr. Dues has erected three residences, these being his former farm residence, the residence in Celina and still another in Philothea, all of which he has sold. He carries on a general line of agriculture and is numbered with the township's good farmers. He has always taken a good citizen's interest in local affairs, in which his judgment is frequently consulted, and for three years he served efficiently as supervisor.

On October 3, 1882, Mr. Dues was married to Catherine Will, a daughter of George Will, and they have had 11 children, namely: Barbara, who married Henry Harms and has one son, Harold; John, who married Philomena Brown and has one daughter, Ursula; and Frank, Benjamin, Rudolph,

Joseph, Henrietta, Matilda, Leona and Philomena, all at home, and Pauline, who died aged eight months. Mr. Dues is a leading member of the Catholic Church.

CHARLES W. MACKENBACH

Charles W. Mackenbach, M. D., physician and surgeon at Coldwater, was born in Jay County, Indiana, December 14, 1869, and is a son of C. A. and Catherine (Kantrenen) Mackenbach.

Charles W. Mackenbach was reared in Jay County, and received his early education in the public schools, later attending the normal school at Portland, Indiana. He then took a course in bookkeeping in Wilt's Business College, also known as the Miami Commercial College, at Dayton, Ohio, and upon his return to Portland he became bookkeeper in the Citizens' Bank, where he remained for three years and then held the same position with the C. A. Barker Lumber Company, following bookkeeping for 10 years. After a course in pharmacy at Valparaiso, Indiana, in 1897 he entered the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati, where he was graduated in 1900. He began medical practice at St. Marys in the same year, remaining there until May 20, 1905, when he removed to Coldwater and opened up his present office. Dr. Mackenbach is unmarried. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Knights of the Maccabees.

ANDREW SMITH

Andrew Smith, a prominent citizen and representative agriculturist of Hopewell township, Mercer County, resides on his well-cultivated farm of 80 acres, which is favorably situated in section 20. He was born in Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, March 10, 1844, and is a son of Frederick and Elizabeth (Garlag) Smith.

The parents of Mr. Smith were born in Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, and subsequently came to America. The mother was born March 21, 1808, and died in September, 1847, the same year that they settled in Mercer County, Ohio. Frederick Smith, who was born April 8, 1807, survived his wife many years, his death occurring June 30, 1906. He was then in his 100th year, being the most venerable resident of the county. His first years in Hopewell township were occupied in clearing up his farm in section 20, it being situated right in the midst of the woods. He contracted a second marriage and of his children the survivors are as follows: Henry, George and Andrew, all farmers in Hopewell township; Lena, wife of Frederick Stedcke,

of Hopewell township; Frederick, of Hanover, Michigan; Caroline, wife of George J. Smith, of Hopewell township; and Susan, wife of Jasper Cole, of Celina.

Andrew Smith was three years old when his parents came to America, and in the same year, 1847, was deprived of the care of his tender mother. He grew up amid pioneer surroundings, went to school at intervals, when sessions were held in the log schoolhouses in the district, and assisted all through youth and manhood in the clearing and developing of the home farm of 80 acres. He has always been numbered with the good farmers and enterprising agriculturists of his locality. He is a man of practical ideas and has always shown an interest in the advancement of education, the establishing of religious bodies and in the making of good roads in his neighborhood.

On October 13, 1867, Mr. Smith was married to Nancy McGilvery, who died June 13, 1868. He was married (second), on November 21, 1869, to Elizabeth Smith, who was born in Shelby County, Ohio, July 21, 1851, and is a daughter of Philip and Elizabeth (Kraft) Smith. The parents of Mrs. Smith were born in Germany and they resided for some years in Shelby County, after coming to Ohio, later removing to Celina, Mercer County, and subsequently to Hopewell township. Mrs. Smith has five surviving brothers, as follows: George J., Charles, Philip, Henry E. and Benjamin F., all residents of Hopewell township.

Our subject and wife have seven children, namely: Catherine, wife of Lewis Anselman, of Liberty township; Mary E., wife of William Clay, of Auglaize County; Ida J., wife of Frederick Stroh, of Auglaize County; Conrad E., of Hopewell township; Margaret, wife of Joseph Bollenbacher, of Liberty township; Charles A., of Hopewell township, and Charlotte B., wife of Joshua Hoenie, of Hopewell township.

In politics Mr. Smith is identified with the Democratic party but he occasionally votes independently. Both he and his wife are valued members of the Evangelical Association. They are widely known and their hospitable home welcomes many warm personal friends.

S. A. BOWMAN

S. A. Bowman, vice-president of the Citizens' Banking Company of Celina, and one of the prominent and valued citizens of the village, was born in 1857 in Allen County, Indiana, where he was reared and schooled, his education being completed at Fort Wayne and Valparaiso.

After leaving college, Mr. Bowman engaged in teaching school for about two years and then embarked in a drug business at Zanesville, where he con-

tinued as active manager for some three years before coming to Celina, but continued as owner of the business for some years thereafter. Mr. Bowman has made Celina his home since 1889 and during all the intervening period has been identified with the Citizens' Bank, first as bookkeeper, later as assistant cashier and subsequently as cashier and for some years has been its vice-president. He is largely interested in real estate in Mercer County and also in Allen County, Indiana, and owns stock in telephone and other enterprises.

In 1882 Mr. Bowman was married to Eva Counterman, a daughter of Jacob Counterman, one of the early pioneers of Mercer County. Mr. and Mrs. Bowman have one son, Harold C., a student in the Celina public schools.

In politics Mr. Bowman is identified with the Republican party and on numerous occasions has been a delegate to State and National conventions. In 1904 he was an elector from Ohio and cast the electoral vote for Theodore Roosevelt. He is interested in all civic matters of a public character and is one of the trustees of the Free Public Library of Celina. Mr. Bowman is one of the leading members of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church at Celina and a member of its official body, and for several years has also been one of the board of district stewards.

GEORGE HOWICK

George Howick, who is engaged in general farming and stock-raising on a farm of 160 acres located in section 23, Center township, was born in this township, April 6, 1848, and is a son of Stephen and Eva (Minehart) Howick, the former a native of Surrey County, England, and the latter, of Fairfield County, Ohio. In the sketch of our subject's brother, David Howick, appearing elsewhere in this volume, will be found further mention of the parents.

George Howick was reared on the home place where he remained until after his marriage, when he moved to his present farm, where he has since resided. His farm which is all in one body lies on the north side of the road. He has cleared a greater part of the land and made many improvements, building a house and other buildings.

Mr. Howick was married 34 years ago to Frances Cantwil, a native of Ohio and a daughter of John Cantwil, who was a resident of Center township. Mr. and Mrs. Howick have had 10 children, namely: Albert, residing in Center township, who married Kate Pitzen and has one child, Eugene; Mary (twin to Albert), who married Benjamin Hoyng and resides in Utica, Ohio; Annie, who married William Craft, of Center township; William, who lives at home; John S.; Grace, who married John Holtmann, of Center township;

and Ethel, Rose, Daniel and Bernard, living at home. Mr. Howick is a Democrat in politics. He is a member of the Catholic Church at Celina.

JACOB LINK

Jacob Link, proprietor of a general store at Chickasaw, was born at Cassella, Mercer County, Ohio, November 18, 1875, and is a son of Anton and Catherine (Cron) Link, who were both natives of Cassella, Ohio. Anton Link was engaged in the sawmill business at Cassella for two years, after which he opened a general store which he operated for some time. He is now a resident of Carthagena, where he is engaged in running a general store. He married Catherine Cron and they have had 11 children, namely: Jacob, John, Elizabeth, Charles, Aloys, Anna, Joseph and Mary, Catherine, Francis and Anton, who are deceased.

Jacob Link lived with his father in Carthagena until about 15 years of age, and worked in his father's store. He then attended St. Mary's Institute at Dayton, Ohio, for two years. At the age of 18 he became a traveling salesman for a cigar jobbing house, in which business he remained for the following eight years. He then returned home for a period of two years, and next opened a general store at Philothea, which he operated for one year. After selling out, he came to Chickasaw and engaged in the general merchandise business, in which he still continues.

Mr. Link was married November 25, 1903, to Margaret Boeke, a daughter of Herman and Catherine Boeke. One child has blessed this union: Catherine, who was born November 18, 1904. Mr. Link is a Democrat in politics and in 1904 was a candidate at the primaries for the nomination for county recorder. Mr. Link and his wife are members of the Most Precious Blood Catholic Church at Chickasaw, Ohio, and he is a member of St. Joseph's Society of that church.

JOHN L. BUCANON

John L. Bucanon, a trustee of Butler township, and owner, with his wife, of 69 acres of fine farm land, was born in Jackson County, Ohio, October 23, 1856, and is a son of Joseph and Esther Ann (Swartz) Bucanon, natives of Ireland, where the father of our subject died in 1857. Our subject's mother married, as her second husband, Anthony Kuhn, and moved to Butler township, Mercer County, Ohio, in 1868.

John L. Bucanon was reared in Butler township and has passed the greater part of his life in agricultural pursuits. In March, 1906, Mr.

Bucanon moved from his farm to Coldwater and purchased the street sprinkling privilege, which he operated during the summer of that year, returning to the farm on October 18th.

Mr. Bucanon was married (first) to Eliza Burch, who died after 18 years of wedded life, leaving one son, Alonzo, who makes his home with his father. On the 19th of May, 1898, our subject married Mrs. Isabelle Andrew, widow of William Andrew and daughter of Martin and Hester Ann Burch, of New York State. She was the mother of six children by her first marriage, as follows: Stella, who is the wife of T. G. Brandon (a teacher in Butler township) and the mother of two children; Charles; Robert, who married Pearl Buck and has one child; Fanny; Eva and Annie. Mr. Bucanon was elected township trustee in 1902 and is now serving his second term. He has been a member of the School Board for seven years. He is a member of the Christian Church.

JOHN GRIER

John Grier, residing on a well-developed farm of 120 acres situated in section 19, Butler township, is a native of Ireland and was born about 1836, although he has no record of the actual date.

After the death of his father, Mr. Grier came to America, being then about eighteen years old. He landed at New York in 1854, having made the voyage on a sailing vessel, which took about 31 days. He obtained his first work in a straw-hat factory as bleacher and later as presser. Afterwards he went to Newark, Ohio, and worked in a house-furnishing store for a time, and then returned to New York, where he remained about three years and then came back to Ohio and settled on a farm, which he had purchased several years before. He cleared the farm and made a great many improvements and now has one of the finest farms in Butler township.

Mr. Grier was married (first) in New York during his early residence there and he and his wife had one child, Catherine Patton, who died aged three months. He was married (second) to Caroline Walters, who was born in Guernsey County, Ohio, but was reared in Mercer County. They became the parents of seven children, namely: John James, who died aged 21 years; Catherine Ann, who lives at home; William Edmond, residing in Jefferson township, who has one child; Mary, who married Robert Larmore and has one child; Ralph, residing in Mercer County, who has one child; Amy Caroline, who lives at home; and Hugh Arthur, who died aged 15 years. Mr. Grier is a Republican and has served as school director and supervisor of his township. In religion he was brought up a Presbyterian, but is not united with any church at present, as no church of that denomination is located near his home.

FIRST RESIDENCE, AND PRESENT RESIDENCE AND BARN OF HARVEY BEOUGHER

HARVEY BEOUGHER

HARVEY BEOUGHER, a well-known citizen and successful farmer of Jefferson township, whose 80-acre farm is located in section 11, was born near Logan, Hocking County, Ohio, March 27, 1842, and is a son of Benjamin C. and Catherine (Cook) Beougher.

Benjamin C. Beougher was born near Millville, Fairfield County, Ohio, where he was reared and educated, removing to Hocking County after his marriage, where he became a representative farmer.

Harvey Beougher remained on the home farm until he was prepared to start a home of his own, in 1872, making his home with his parents, but occasionally working for neighboring farmers as was the custom. In 1863 he enlisted for service in the Civil War and was in the army for one year and seven months, a member of the 58th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf. He saw some pretty hard service but returned at the close of his term of enlistment without having suffered any serious injury. He resumed farming in Hocking County, where he remained until 1875, when he located in Mercer County, having purchased 80 acres of uncleared land in Jefferson township in 1866. Here he built a log house and entered upon the clearing and ditching of his land, which he continued until the whole tract of 80 acres was ready for cultivation, except nine acres reserved for timber. In 1899 Mr. Beougher built a commodious frame residence which has made a comfortable home for his family. In 1892 he erected his substantial barn which is, without doubt, one of the very best in the township. His other improvements are of the same character and they make his property a valuable and pleasing one. He carries on general farming and raises some stock.

On March 24, 1872, Mr. Beougher was married to Eva Lohr, a daughter of Noah Lohr, who is a minister in the United Brethren Church, located in Hocking County, Ohio. They have had 13 children, namely: Cora Alma and Lela Ada, both deceased in infancy; Homer Ellis, who died aged 18 months; Sanford, minister of the Christian Church at Montpelier, Indiana, who is married and has two children; Charles, a resident of Jefferson township, who is married and has three children; Elmer J., also residing in Jefferson township, who is married and has one child; Chester Orn, who is married and resides in Celina; Ida, who married William Monroe and lives in Jefferson township; and Lawrence, Zina D., Maud Blanche, Jesse and Bessie E., who resides at home.

Mr. Beougher has given his children educational advantages and they are respected members of society in Jefferson township. The family belong to the Walnut Chapel United Brethren Church in Jefferson township, of which he is one of the trustees. In politics Mr. Beougher is a Republican. On a

nearby page are shown views of Mr. Beougher's first residence and of his present residence and barn.

GEORGE SMITH

In the subject of this sketch is found one of Hopewell township's most highly esteemed citizens. He is the owner of 100 acres of valuable land, situated in section 30, and has long been accounted a representative agriculturist of this part of Mercer County. Mr. Smith was born in Germany, December 23, 1839, and is a son of Frederick and Elizabeth (Garlag) Smith.

Frederick Smith brought his family to America in 1847, and came directly to Mercer County, Ohio. He was one of the early pioneers and found a still undeveloped country where are now fertile fields and every indication of a high state of civilization. He cleared up a large farm in Hopewell township, where the rest of a long and useful life was spent, which extended into his 100th year, his death taking place on June 30, 1906. Of his children, these survive: Henry, of Hopewell township; George, of this sketch; Andrew, of Hopewell township; Frederick, of Hanover, Michigan; Caroline, wife of George J. Smith, of Hopewell township; and Susan, wife of Jasper Cole, of Celina.

George Smith was reared among pioneer surroundings and can recall many interesting circumstances relative to early days in this township. His life has been one devoted to agriculture and he has done his part in developing farming interests and in raising the standard of agricultural achievement. He formerly owned 180 acres but has retained but 100, which he devotes to general farming and stock-raising. While his life has been a successful one, he has had much to contend with and his prosperity is but the reward of his own unassisted efforts.

In September, 1864, he enlisted for service in the Civil War, becoming a member of Company K, 43rd Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., which was attached to General Sherman's command. Mr. Smith took part in the famous "March to the Sea" and was concerned in the siege and subsequent capture of Atlanta. With the victorious army, Mr. Smith took part in the Grand Review at Washington and was mustered out of the service in June, 1865.

Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Magdalena Myers, who was born in Pennsylvania and accompanied her parents to Hopewell township in girlhood. The children born to our subject and wife were the following: Mary A., wife of Frederick Hasis, of Center township; Lydia C., wife of George W. Smith, of Liberty township; Callie, wife of Joseph Stedcke, of Hopewell township; Amanda, wife of Frank Stedcke, of Hopewell township; Frank D., of Hopewell township; Lulu L., wife of Richard Stedcke, of Hopewell town-

ship; John F., of Jefferson township; Fannie, wife of William Eichenaur, of Hopewell township; and Pearl A., wife of James Highley, of Hopewell township.

Mr. Smith has always been a stanch supporter of the Democratic party but has never aspired to office. He is a valued member of the Evangelical Association. Through a long and useful life he has maintained a reputation for strict fairness and integrity in his dealings with his fellow-citizens and consequently enjoys their respect and esteem.

GEORGE KETTERING

George Kettering, one of the most prominent farmers of Recovery township, owner of 200 acres of farm land located as follows,—80 acres in section 18, Recovery township, and 80 acres in section 15 and 40 acres in section 16, Washington township, was born in Washington township, Mercer County, Ohio, November 25, 1856, and is a son of Henry and Margaret F. (Fennig) Kettering.

Henry Kettering was born near Strasburg, Germany, where he was reared and married. He came to America with his wife and child and located in Holmes County, Ohio, where his wife died shortly after, leaving one child, Catherine (Mrs. Leininger), who resides in Liberty township, Mercer County, Ohio. His second marriage occurred in Holmes County, to Martha F. Fennig, born in Germany, and who came to America when four years old with her parents who located in Ashland County, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Kettering lived a number of years in Holmes County, their four oldest children being born in that county. He moved to Mercer County in 1835 and located on a farm of 80 acres in Washington township, which is now owned by our subject and is occupied by Benjamin Powell, a nephew of the subject of this sketch. Mr. Kettering was one of the most promiennt men in Washington township and at the time of his death, which occurred in 1871 at the age of 58 years, he was the owner of 193 acres of land, and had considerable other property beside. His wife died February 1, 1902, aged 77 years. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kettering, as follows: Henry, John, Caroline, Sarah, Jacob, George, Mary, Philip and Margaret. Henry came to Mercer County with his parents when about nine years of age, was reared in Washington township and lived here until March 1, 1906, when he sold the home farm which he then owned to his brother George, and moved to Nebraska. He divided 160 acres among his children and still owns 120 acres of land in Washington township. John resides in Black Creek township. Caroline is the widow of Henry Bobenmoyer, of Washington township. Sarah married John Smoyer of

Washington township, who was killed in an oil-well explosion on his own farm. Jacob resides in Washington township. Mary married Jacob Becher, of Black Creek township. Philip died aged one year and seven days. Margaret married Peter W. Wright and died at the age of 26 years.

George Kettering was reared in Washington township and has spent his whole life in Mercer County with the exception of the time he has spent in traveling. In 1895, wishing to see the country where his father was born, Mr. Kettering took a trip to Europe, visiting France, Germany, Holland and many other countries. He is also interested in his own country and has visited California on two different occasions.

GEORGE W. SMITH

George W. Smith, a representative agriculturist of Liberty township, whose excellent farm of 120 acres is situated in section 13, was born January 14, 1863, in Liberty township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of George and Gertrude Wappas Smith.

The parents of Mr. Smith were natives of Germany. The father was a boy of 12 years when he accompanied his parents to America. The family lived for a time in Pennsylvania and then came to Mercer County, Ohio, and settled on a wild tract of land in section 24, Liberty township. They were compelled to endure many hardships for the first few years, as were all the pioneers, but in spite of them the family flourished, increased in numbers and substance and now the Smith family of Liberty township, founded by our subject's grandfather, John Smith, is one of the representative ones of this locality. George Smith died June 3, 1901. He was one of the leading members of the Evangelical Association. His wife passed away November 16, 1890. Both were widely known and highly esteemed.

George W. Smith was reared in Liberty township and was educated in the district schools. A long and intimate familiarity with all kinds of farm work has made of Mr. Smith a very competent farmer and his well-tilled land and the evidences of its productiveness seen on every hand mark him as a thoroughgoing agriculturist. Of his present farm, 40 acres were formerly included in the old homestead.

Mr. Smith was married to Lydia C. Smith, a daughter of George Smith, of Hopewell township, and they have two children—Mervin and Ruth M.

Although Mr. Smith is identified with the Republican party, he has his own ideas and claims the right sometimes to vote independently. He has always been a man of prominence in his township and has served at various times as school director of Dist. No. 6. He belongs to the Evangelical Association.

FRANK BERNARD ROMER

Frank Bernard Romer, the owner of an excellent farm of 80 acres in section 26, Granville township, which is watered by the Wabash River, is one of the representative men of his locality and belongs to one of the oldest and most prominent families of the county. He was born December 6, 1874, at St. Henry, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Bernard Frank and Mary Anna (Beckman) Romer.

Bernard Frank Romer, Sr., the grandfather of our subject, accompanied his brother Henry from Germany and the latter entered the land and laid out the town of St. Henry. The great-grandfather had died in Germany, but our subject's great-grandmother and the following children made up the first party of settlers of this name: Henry, Bernard Frank (the grandfather of our subject), Herman (1), Herman (2), Fred, Agnes (wife of Henry Hemmelgarn, deceased, at Cincinnati), and Frank. Three of the sons came to the vicinity of St. Henry, but the rest of the family remained at Cincinnati. The mother subsequently came to Minster, Auglaize County, Ohio, to visit her children, and died there in 1849. Other members of the family joined the first settlers at St. Henry. They possessed little means and walked the most of the way through the woods to this point. They worked on the canal and proved industrious, reliable people. Their log cabin in the woods was erected by combined effort in one day, and in the hastily constructed home seven families spent their first winter. All the brothers died in Mercer County, except Frank, Fred and Herman.

Bernard Frank Romer, Sr., was married at Cincinnati, Ohio, to Agnes Gravenkamp, who came from the same part of Germany as did his own family. Their children were: Elizabeth, the first white child born at St. Henry, who is the widow of Fred Athmer; Agnes, who married Clemmens Meinerding—both now deceased; Bernardina, who married Henry Lennartz—both now deceased; Catherine, who married John Beckman; Mary (widow of Dr. Myers), residing in Florida; Anna, (widow of Henry Doess), living at St. Henry; and Bernard Frank, the only son. The father of this family died in September, 1879, but the mother survived until February 14, 1901.

Bernard Frank Romer, father of our subject, one of the best known citizens of St. Henry, was born here on February 25, 1846. The whole period of his attendance at school was covered by 30 days, but he made the most of his limited opportunities. He early developed business ability and was but 12 years of age when he began to buy and sell as well as trade horses, and it was remarkable how seldom he made a bad bargain. When he was 14 years old he bought his first farm, purchasing it from Jacob Ullerman, at St. Peter, in Recovery township, and with this tract as a beginning he has continued to add

acre after acre until he now owns 400 acres in Mercer County and a large body of land in Scioto County. In addition he is interested in the lumber business at Celina, St. Henry and Mendon, and is the controller of a large amount of capital. Politically he has always been a stanch supporter of the Democratic party, but he has never sought office. Mr. Romer is one of the leading members of St. Henry's Catholic Church at St. Henry, which his family was instrumental in founding. He assisted in building the present beautiful church edifice.

On October 15, 1868, Mr. Romer was married to Mary Anna Beckman, who died March 18, 1902. She was a daughter of the late Henry A. Beckman, who was an early settler in this vicinity, a well-known practitioner of law and for a number of years a justice of the peace. The eight children born to Bernard Frank Romer, Jr., and wife were as follows: Rebecca Ann, who is the wife of Henry Winkeljohan, of Celina; Agnes, who is the wife of Benjamin Riling, of St. Henry; Emma, who married Joseph Moeller and lives at St. Henry; Frank Bernard, who is the immediate subject of this sketch; Ferdinand, who married Carrie Kreusch and lives at Cambridge City, Indiana; Albert, who married Mary Schunck and lives at Celina; Lillian, a very estimable lady, who keeps house for her father; and a son, who died January 7, 1879, aged six months.

Frank Bernard Romer, Jr., laid out the town of Burkettsville, 1871. He also presented to Rev. John Van den Broek, C. PP. S., two acres of land and was one of a committee of eight good Catholics who organized St. Bernard's Church there. He erected his own commodious residence at St. Henry in 1884-85, a large brick structure of 12 rooms, where he now lives practically retired, although it is doubtful if anyone with so active a mind and so many important interests still concerning him will ever entirely lay aside business affairs.

Frank Bernard Romer was reared at St. Henry. He enjoyed better educational advantages than did his father, for after he had completed the course of instruction in the schools of St. Henry, he went to Dayton and finished at St. Mary's Institute there. He continued to reside at home until his marriage and during the first year following it he lived at St. Henry, in the meantime working one of his father's farms. In 1899 he located on his present farm, which he obtained from his father, and moved into the log house which was then standing. Mr. and Mrs. Romer continued to live in that house until the completion, in 1902, of his handsome new residence, of nine rooms, which is a very fine home and is fitted with many modern conveniences. In 1901 Mr. Romer completed his substantial barn, also of modern construction. He has made many other excellent improvements, has cleared his land and has put it under a fine state of cultivation. He carries on general

farming, after the most approved methods, raises some stock and in every way may be termed a representative agriculturist of his section.

On October 4, 1898, Mr. Romer was united in marriage with Anna M. Moeller, who was born November 23, 1875, and is a daughter of Gerhard Henry and Mary (Lang) Moeller. The father of Mrs. Romer was born at St. Johns, near Maria Stein, and was a son of Joseph Moeller, who was one of the first settlers at that place. Joseph Moeller and wife came to Ohio from Germany and they had the following children: Gerhard Henry, father of Mrs. Romer; Anthony, who died young; Anna, who married Joseph Bruns; John, deceased at 21 years; Mary, wife of Frank Bruns; Frances, who married (first) Frank Feldhake and (second) Anthony Sherman; and Joseph.

The children of Gerhard Henry and Mary (Lang) Moeller were: Amelia, who married William Henry Romer; Joseph, who married Emma Romer; Anna M., who is the wife of our subject; Louis, who married Rose Vand der Bosch; Pauline, deceased in the spring of 1905, who was the wife of George Bruns; Rose, who married Joseph Macke, Jr.; Francis; Leo; Adolph, deceased; and Ferdinand. Mr. and Mrs. Moeller live retired at St. Henry.

Mr. and Mrs. Romer have four children, namely: Florence, born August 21, 1899; Alphonse, born December 19, 1901; Ruth, born March 12, 1904; and Mildred, born September 6, 1906. This family, like all of the name, are devoted members of the Catholic Church.

REV. JOSEPH HEITZ, C. PP. S.

Rev. Joseph Heitz, C. PP. S., rector of the Novitiate of the Fathers of the Most Precious Blood, situated near Burkettsville, in Granville township, was born June 9, 1854, on a farm in Huron County, Ohio, and is a son of Jacob and Frances (Meng) Heitz, who were natives of Germany.

Joseph Heitz was the oldest of a family of three children. He first attended school at the district school near his father's home. He then went to a Catholic school at Bismarck, Huron County, Ohio, and then entered St. Joseph's College in Illinois, where he took a preparatory course for two years, after which he entered St. Charles Seminary, at Carthegena, taking a nine years' course. He was ordained a priest in 1881, after which he went to Fort Recovery, where he had his first church, also having charge of the churches at Wendelin and Sharpsburg. After remaining there for about 11 months, he went to Glandorf, Putnam County, Ohio, where he became an assistant priest. His next call was to Big Spring, Seneca County, Ohio, where he had charge of St. Peter's parish for 18 months, returning then to Fort Rocovery to take charge of the church there a second time. He afterwards located at Law-

renceburg, Tennessee, and had charge of a number of missions, including Franklin, Pulaski and Columbia. He was at Lawrenceburg two years and one year at Nashville. From Nashville he went to New York City, where he became chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital, after which he returned to Coldwater, Mercer County, and had charge of Holy Trinity Church for one year. Since 1890 he has been rector of the Novitiate of the Fathers of the Most Precious Blood, which is situated one mile and a half northeast of Burkettsville. Father Heitz is a member of the congregation of the Most Precious Blood.

JOHN SCHINDLER

JOHN SCHINDLER, who has been prominent in the affairs of Fort Recovery for many years, both as a business man and public citizen, owns a large establishment where blacksmith work and the manufacturing of wagons and buggies is carried on. He was born at Hecklengen, Germany, in 1849, and is a son of Constantine and Julia (Beha) Schindler.

Constantine Schindler was born in Germany and was a substantial citizen for many years. He was the youngest of four children, the others being: Carl, who came to America, in 1830, settling at Wolf Creek, in Seneca County, where he married (first) a Miss Ferenbach, and, after her death, Ursula Hoepf, dying in 1901; Catherine, who married Robert Burkhart—both died in Germany; and Theresa, who married Ferdinand Schindler—both died in Germany.

The parents of our subject spent their lives in Germany. The father engaged in farming and also entered into political life and was made one of the burgomasters of his town, which is an important one in Baden. He lived to be 70 years of age and his wife survived to the same age. They were both most worthy members of the Catholic Church. They had seven children, namely: William, Albert, Hugo, John, Mary, Julia and Theresa. William, who died in 1881, at Coldwater, Ohio, married Margaret Umlor, who was born on a farm near Fostoria, Ohio. Albert, who died in Germany in 1901, was married in his native land and always lived there. He was in the German Army and served in the war between Austria and Prussia, in 1866, and in the Franco-Prussian War, 1870-71, and on account of being shot eight times drew a large pension. Hugo, the third son, still lives with his family, on the old home farm in Germany. Mary married and died in Germany. Julia is the widow of Captain Arnold Fritsch, who died in the city of Offenburg, where he was postoffice inspector. Theresa is the wife of Ferdinand Feltman, who is a railroad official at Kensington, Germany.

John Schindler, our subject, is the youngest son in his parents' family.

He was educated in his native town and when 16 years of age started to learn the blacksmith's trade with an old, experienced workman, by the name of Carl Hütz, who had a shop and forge in the neighborhood. The youth remained with Mr. Hütz for about 18 months and then decided to try his fortune in America. In October, 1867, he landed at Castle Garden, New York, and passed two lonely weeks in the great metropolis before he found work at Toledo, Ohio. Four weeks later he went to Frankfort, which was then called Six Mile Woods, where he joined his brother William, who had a blacksmith shop there, remaining with him for the following year. Then he went to Fostoria and completed his trade with John Audis of that place. From Fostoria, Mr. Schindler, now an expert workman, went to Tiffin, then to Upper Sandusky, and still later to Little Sandusky, to Marion and then to Sandusky, working at his trade at every point. In order to see something of the country, Mr. Schindler then went to Michigan and located for a time at Adrian.

In the meantime Mr. Schindler's brother William had sold out his shop at Six Mile Woods and had established a big concern at Coldwater, Mercer County, Ohio, and in 1872 our subject returned to Ohio and resumed work with his brother. In the following year he was married. He then moved to Berwick, Ohio, where he remained one year, returning then to his brother's shop at Coldwater, this time remaining with him one year. At this time Monterey, in Mercer County, was attracting attention and the prospects seemed good for its becoming a prosperous place, as it was thought that the railroad would pass through it. Mr. Schindler located here and established a shop, which he conducted until the fall of 1877, by which time the tide of business was flowing in the direction of Fort Recovery. After selling his Monterey shop, he established his present business where he has remained ever since. In 1877 he bought his shop property and in the following year he built his comfortable residence in close vicinity and there lived until 1886, when he purchased his present beautiful home. It is a large, eight-room house, which stood on the property when he bought it, but he has so improved it that it looks like another place. The residence is situated on Boundary street, where he has three town lots. On the opposite side of the street, Mr. Schindler owns five other lots and he also has 21 acres of valuable farming land near the corporation limits. He is considered one of the substantial as well as prominent and representative men of Fort Recovery.

On April 29, 1873, Mr. Schindler was married, at St. Peter, Mercer County, Ohio, to Mary Anna Roesner, who was born on a farm near St. Peter, May 30, 1852. They have had 12 children, as follows: John, who married Lula Riegel and lives at Fort Recovery; Theresa, residing at Fort Recovery, who married Fred Boesche and has one child, John F.; Julia, living at Anderson, Indiana, who married Joseph Lennartz and has three children—Clemence,

Lionel and Pauline; and Rose, Dora, Clara, Ferdinand, Hugo, Herbert, Ella, Margaret and Rudolph (deceased).

Jacob Roesner, father of Mrs. Schindler, came to America from Bavaria, Germany, and was married at Somerset, Perry County, Ohio, to Mary Buschor, who had come to America from Elsass, Germany, with her parents, when eight years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Roesner settled on a farm near St. Peter, Mercer County, where they lived the remainder of their lives. They had six children, as follows: Michael, who married Margaret Cerber and lives at Fort Recovery; Daniel, who married Mary Ann Studer and lives at Celina; David, who married Mary Mader and lives at Celina; Mary Anna, who is the wife of Mr. Schindler; Lena, who married Benjamin Fallert and lives at Santa Ana, California; and Jacob, who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Roesner were devoted members of the Catholic Church.

In politics Mr. Schindler is a stanch Democrat, and on numerous occasions he has been elected to important offices by his party. He is at present serving as infirmary director, and during the second administration of President Cleveland was postmaster at Fort Recovery. For a number of terms he was township treasurer and for 20 years was a member of the Village Council, serving 16 of these in succession. He has always been looked upon as one of the town's most representative, public-spirited men.

Perhaps there is no more widely traveled individual in the county than Mr. Schindler. Since his marriage he has visited the following States: New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Colorado. In Southern Tennessee, in Lawrence County,he invested in some fine farming lands. He has also visited Canada and on May 27, 1900, he started for Europe. On reaching Paris he spent 10 days in viewing the wonders of the great exposition, then proceeded to Strasburg, crossed the storied Rhine, went then to Offenburg and found a hearty welcome from his sister Julia. He then visited his native place where his sister Theresa still resides and then went to Basel, Switzerland, and while there joined with 500 other good Americans in celebrating the Fourth of July. After this delightful vacation, Mr. Schindler reached home in October.

JOSEPH WINHOVEN

Joseph Winhoven, a prosperous farmer of Granville township, residing on a farm of 160 acres, located in section 33, was born near Egypt, Auglaize County, Ohio, September 29, 1868, and is a son of Martin and Dora (Hauman) Winhoven.

Martin Winhoven was born in Perizes, Germany, May 15, 1808, and

lived there until he was 47 years old. He was married four times, his fourth wife, Dora Hauman, being the mother of our subject. His first wife lived but a short time after their marriage. His second marriage resulted in the birth of four children, whose names are as follows: Henry, who is married and lives near Toledo, Ohio; Peter, deceased; Anna, who married Henry Keuter and lives in Egypt, Ohio; and Catherine, who married John Rising and lives at Minster, Ohio. After the death of his second wife, he married again and, his third wife dying soon after, he was united in marriage the fourth time, with Dora Hauman, who was born in Perizes, Germany, December 1, 1829. After the birth of their first two children, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Winhoven came to America, in March, 1855, proceeding to Mercer County and first settling at St. Johns. Not long afterward they removed to Egypt, Ohio, where they raised five more children. Upon locating there, he bought a farm of 40 acres, half a mile east of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, upon which he lived for many years. He finally sold this farm in 1877 and moved to Mercer County where he bought, of Frank Bachman, an 80-acre tract of land, located two miles northwest of Burkettsville, which is the farm that our subject now owns. Only 14 acres of this property were cleared and under cultivation, the remainder being in timber. He had a log house built which cost him $110; before its completion he was obliged to move into it, when it was necessary to use blankets in place of windows and doors. On this farm Mr. Winhoven lived the remainder of his life, his death occurring in October, 1897, at the age of 89 years. His widow is still living and resides on a farm in Granville township near that of her son, the subject of this sketch. Seven children were born to Martin and Dora (Hauman) Winhoven, as follows: Conrad, deceased; Anna Mary, who died in childhood; Caroline, who married Henry Brinkman and lives in Granville township; Antony; Catherine, who married Wendel Fink and resides in Dexter, Missouri; Joseph, the subject of this sketch; and Frank, a resident of Mercer County, who first married Theresa Havermeyer and after her death married Ella Tray.

Joseph Winhoven passed the first nine years of his life on the farm near Egypt and then until he was 22 years old lived on the farm in Granville township which he now owns. After his marriage he lived on his father-in-law's farm one year, then for four years rented his father's farm, after which he rented Henry Staggler's farm for two years. This brings us down to the year 1897 when his father died. His mother then had a public sale of the property on November 29, 1897, at which sale our subject bought the homestead farm, which lies two miles northwest of Burkettsville in section 33. In 1904 he bought 80 acres more from Gerhardt Hinders adjoining the 80-acre homestead tract, so at the present writing he has a well-improved and up-to-date farm of 160 acres well located and in one piece in section 33. In 1900 he

erected a large barn and four years later built a commodious nine-room frame house, having up to this time lived in the old log house which his father built when he first located on the farm 27 years before.

On January 13, 1891, Mr. Winhoven was married by Rev. John Van den Broek, C. PP. S., to Margaret Borgerding, a daughter of John G. Borgerding, who came to this country from Oldenburg, Germany, in young manhood and was one of the early settlers of Mercer County. His wife's maiden name was Clara Slotman. She was a widow at the time of her marriage to him. By her first husband, Herman Henry Lang, she had two children: Henry, who lives in Oregon; and Elizabeth, who married Andrew Harman and resides in Granville township. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. John G. Borgerding, as follows: John H., who married Anna Nottenbrook and lives in Darke County, Ohio; Leo, who died in childhood; Mary, who married Joseph Fink and lives in Darke County, Ohio; Robert, who married Dinah Westerheider and lives in Granville township; Joseph, who married Catherine Havermeyer and died at the age of 26 years; Catherine, who marmied John Rammel and lives in Granville township; and Margaret, the wife of our subject, who was born in Burkettsville, Mercer County, Ohio, June 10, 1871. John M. Borgerding was a well-read man and a faithful member of the Catholic Church. His death occurred on the 25th of December, 1897. His wife died on October 19, 1899.

Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Winhoven, namely: Martin Joseph, born October 8, 1891; Mary Dora, born June 17, 1893; John Herbert, born June 17, 1895; Henry Edward, born April 18, 1897; Frank Ferdinand, born June 19, 1899; Julius Robert, born October 27, 1901; and Martha Ellenora, born May 9, 1904. Mr. Winhoven is at present truant officer of the Rammel school district. He is a member of St. Bernard's Catholic Church at Burkettsville.

IRA E. CRAMPTON

Ira E. Crampton, who is identified with a number of the business enterprises of Celina, and is particularly concerned in several large canning factories, was born at Lebanon, Ohio, some 53 years ago, but was mainly reared on a farm near Muncie, Indiana.

Mr. Crampton grew up in the neighborhood of Muncie and was educated there and for a number of years was connected with the business enterprises of that section. He early became an expert in the canning industry and built a canning factory there, manufacturing also his own cans. This plant he sold in 1898 and then, with his wife, he took a little relaxation, enjoying a summer of travel. Mr. Crampton in the meantime had selected

Celina as an excellent field for business and came to this village and erected the immense canning factory, which he has successfully operated ever since. In addition to this factory he also operates one at Gaston, Indiana. A great business is done in the canning of peas, corn and tomatoes, the well-known, satisfactory brand of the latter, which is known as "Ohio's Best," coming from the Crampton cannery. During the past season this cannery put up 25,000 cases of peas, 40,000 cases of tomatoes, nearly 2,000,000 cans altogether going out from the factory. This industry gives employment to a large number of helpers in the canning season, distributes a large amount of money through this section and is assisting in giving Celina a good reputation as being an important shipping center.

Mr. Crampton is one of the village's most enterprising business men. In addition to his interests already mentioned, he is a stockholder in the Celina Telephone Company, is interested in the Delaware County gas plant and in other successful concerns.

In 1876 Mr. Crampton was married to Lacie Beuoy, who was reared at Wheeling, Indiana, and they have three children, viz.: Lola, wife of Lloyd Sharp, a merchant at Auburn, Indiana; Ruth and Ethel. Mr. Crampton's only son, Carl B., was accidentally killed in 1905, at Celina, by the explosion of a gasoline tank in the cannery. He was a young man of more than usual educational attainments, a graduate of Lebanon College, and was a special chemist employed by the pulp company, of Muncie, Indiana.

Mr. Crampton is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and belongs to the official board. He is also secretary of the Celina Chautauqua Association. In fraternal life he belongs to the Knights of Pythias organization at Muncie, to the Endowment Rank, and also to the Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorassan.

CHARLES BRUNS

Charles Bruns, whose well-improved and highly cultivated farm of 220 acres is located in section 36, Marion township, was born at St. Johns, Mercer County, Ohio, May 6, 1845, and is a son of John and Elizabeth Bruns.

John Bruns and his wife were natives of Ida, near Fechte, Germany. Upon coming to America, they first located at Cincinnati, Ohio, where Mr. Bruns followed his trade of shoemaking, remaining there for one year. He then came to Mercer County, purchased a farm of 80 acres near St. Johns and engaged in making shoes for the farmers and their families, going from farm to farm. When he wanted flour for bread he had to carry the grain on his back to the mill at Piqua. He also worked on the canal which was

then being built. He acquired other tracts of land from time to time—110 acres of farm land in Auglaize County, to which he later added 40 acres, then 100 acres at Sebastian, Mercer County, and still later another tract of 80 acres. This land he later gave to his sons. Mr. Bruns was the father of seven children: Henry, deceased; John; August; Barney, who lives in Auglaize County; Mary, wife of G. Kiser; Charles; and Herman, who died in Texas. John Bruns and his wife died on the home farm at St. Johns, Mercer County.

Charles Bruns has always lived in Mercer County. He was raised on his father's farm in Marion township, where he remained assisting with the work until the time of his marriage. Of his present farm, 115 acres were inherited by his wife at the time of her father's death; the remainder, 105 acres, Mr. Bruns purchased. The house which Mr. Bruns and his family occupy is a large, 10-room frame house, surrounded by an orchard and is one of the prettiest rural homes in the southern section of the county. Mr. Bruns also owns three town lots in Celina, in what is known as Schunck's Addition, these lots being Nos. 19, 20 and 21.

During the younger days of our subject there were no railroads or good roads in this section of the country and he was many times obliged to travel through the mud to Celina to pay his taxes. He was quite fond of hunting at that time and bagged many wild turkeys and squirrels. He has an old fire-stone musket which came from England. The first time he used this gun, he shot three turkeys at one shot. He has an old violin which his old schoolmaster brought from the old country, which he learned to play, that he might accompany the school in their songs. He also has many other old relics, including an old time piece which is over 100 years old.

Mr. Bruns was married April 6, 1867, to Caroline Bergman, a daughter of Arnold Bergman, who was a native of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Bruns have had one child: Henry, who married Elizabeth Brackman, a daughter of John Brackman, and has had six children, namely: Caroline, Anna, Lawrence, Clara, and Agnes, and Clarence (deceased).

Mr. Bruns has for a number of years been school director and was township trustee for six years. He and his family are members of St. John's Catholic Church at St. Johns.

HENRY MOORMAN

Henry Moorman, who resides on his valuable farm of 80 acres situated in section 16, Butler township, owns in all 160 acres of fine land. He was born in Hanover, Germany, October 31, 1858, and is a son of William and Engle Moorman, both of whom were born and also died in Germany.

Henry Moorman was reared in Germany and always worked on a farm. He was married in 1880 to Elizabeth Sager, a native of Germany, and they have had nine children: Lucy, who died at Dayton, Ohio, aged two years; Fred, who works in the Barney & Smith Car Company's shops at Dayton; William, who married Josephine Rabe, lives on a farm in Washington township, but will soon move to his farm of 80 acres in Butler township; Emma, who lives at Dayton; and Annie, Clara, Nora, Charles and Edward.

In 1883 Mr. Moorman, his wife and two oldest sons, William and Fred, came to America and settled at Dayton, Ohio, where for eight years he worked in the Barney & Smith Car Company's shops. In 1891 he moved to Butler township, Mercer County, where he purchased a farm of 40 acres, about one mile from his present location, which he cultivated for six years and then sold and bought 80 acres in section 16, where he now resides. In 1902 he added 80 acres, situated in section 15, Butler township. He carries on general farming. Mr. Moorman is a member of the Lutheran Church.

JOHN JOSEPH LUTHMANN

John Joseph Luthmann, one of Butler township's prosperous agriculturists, who resides on a highly-cultivated farm of 80 acres located in section 1, was born at Egypt, Auglaize County, Ohio, March 23, 1861, and is a son of John C. and Mary Luthmann.

John C. Luthmann was born in Germany. He was a school-teacher prior to and after coming to America. He located in Auglaize County, Ohio, and taught for some time at Wapakoneta and at Egypt. He died August 16, 1894, near Minster, leaving a farm of 149 acres in Adams County, Indiana.

John J. Luthmann was reared in Auglaize County. In 1884 he went to Adams County, Indiana, to cultivate the land left by his father, and acquired a farm of 69 acres in Adams County, which he sold in 1898, when he purchased his present farm in Butler township. In 1901 he built a large frame house and barn; he has made other necessary improvements.

Mr. Luthmann was married (first) in 1884 to Dora Deneka, of Adams County, who died 22 months later. He was married (second) in 1886 to Tracy Robin, who died 13 months after marriage. They had one child, Casper, who died at the age of 10 months. Mr. Luthmann was married (third) in 1889 to Lizzie Bruening, and they had one child, Mary, who died October 16, 1900, aged 11 years. Mr. Luthmann and his wife are members of the Catholic Church.

JOHN ALT

John Alt, who is one of the leading citizens of Liberty township, and a representative agriculturist, resides on his excellent farm of 160 acres, which he has occupied since 1864. He was born in Bavaria, Germany, November 29, 1838, and is a son of Frederick and Elizabeth (Keller) Alt.

Although Mr. Alt was born in Germany, he has lived in his adopted country since he was 15 years of age. When he reached this country, he was almost without resources, but he found farm work, first near Detroit, Michigan, and later, in Mercer County, Ohio. He was engaged in farming when the Civil War broke out and in 1862 he decided to enter the Union Army. On August 12th of that year, he enlisted in Company F, 99th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and served in the Army of the Cumberland under those great generals of the war, Buell and Rosecrans. He participated in a number of very heavy engagements, the greatest battle being that at Stone River. He was honorably discharged on account of disability, on November 17, 1863. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Rockford, Ohio.

In the year following his return from the army, Mr. Alt settled on the farm where he now lives. It seemed very far from civilization at that time, woods covering the present fertile fields and no roads leading through the forests. After clearing his land, he gradually put it under cultivation and now has a valuable farm. He was one of the main movers in the project which resulted in the building of the good road which now runs east and west through the township, passing his residence. It has proved a great convenience to him but has also been of equal value to his neighbors. He has served as a trustee of the township for a number of years.

Mr. Alt was married (first) to Louisa Kable, who was born in Prussia and was a daughter of Christian Kable, a resident of Liberty township at the time. There were seven children born to that marriage and three of these still live, as follows: Sophia, wife of Valentine Brehm, of Liberty township; John, of Liberty township; and Phebe, wife of Michael Burger, of Liberty township. Mr. Alt was married (second) to Rachel Hoenie, who was born near Celina, Ohio, and they have one son, Henry F., who lives at home.

Although Mr. Alt favors the Democratic party, he is a thoughtful man and has opinions of his own and occasionally prefers the man for the office before the party. He has always liberally supported public-spirited enterprises and has cast his influence in favor of the public schools. He is a worthy member of the German Evangelical Church and is much esteemed in St. Paul's congregation. As one of the old settlers and as a survivor of the Civil War, Mr. Alt is entitled to consideration, but he also commands re-

GRIFFIN FAMILY GROUP OF FIVE GENERATIONS

MRS. MARY ORLIDA P. GRIFFIN
MRS. MARTHA F. PARTNER
MRS. ONA G. BOWLAND
JESTINAH BOWLAND
MRS. JESTINAH R. FRAYER

THE OLD GRIFFIN HOME

RESIDENCE AND BARN OF GEORGE F. GRIFFIN

spect for the example of industry and integrity he has set. Dependent entirely upon himself, from boyhood, he has reason to feel some pride in what he has accomplished.

GEORGE F. GRIFFIN

GEORGE F. GRIFFIN, a representative citizen and leading farmer of Union township, resides on his finely improved farm of 240 acres, which is situated in section 1. Mr. Griffin was born on the old Griffin homestead in Union township, Mercer County, Ohio, March 2, 1851, and is a son of Claudius and Elizabeth (Arnold) Griffin.

Claudius Griffin, father of our subject, was born November 28, 1813, in a little log cabin, on the banks of the Ohio River, in Clermont County, Ohio. He still survives, a remarkable example of the effects of a life of industry, sobriety and of kindly interest in the welfare of those with whom he has come into contact, during almost a century of existence. His parents were Benjamin and Experience (Mitchell) Griffin, who were pioneers first in Clermont and later in Champaign County. In 1832 the grandfather of our subject sold his farm in Champaign County and removed to Van Wert County, settling on a wild tract of land which later was developed into a good farm. Benjamin Griffin died in 1860, aged 76 years. His widow survived him seven years. They had 10 children, Claudius, the father of our subject, being the eighth in order of birth.

In 1839 Claudius Griffin was married to Elizabeth Arnold, a daughter of John and Rachel Arnold, natives of Kentucky, who were then residing at Venedocia, Van Wert County, Ohio. To Claudius Griffin and wife were born 13 children, as follows: Eunice, deceased, who was the wife of Caleb Kelley; Mrs. Hannah Fryer, a resident of Union township; Lucinda, deceased, who was the wife of William Lemunyon; John, a soldier in the Civil War, who died in the service; Benjamin, who died young; Nathaniel, who married Ann Dobson, and resides at Celina; George F., the subject of this sketch; Martha Jane, who is the wife of Joseph G. Severns, of Union township; Rachel, deceased, who was the wife of William Partner; William, who died young; Priscilla, who is the wife of Calvin Krugh, of Union township; Isabelle, who is the wife of Elroy Hussey, a prominent merchant and also postmaster at Mendon; and Ida, who is the wife of Clement Vallandigham Hood, of Union township.

In the year of his marriage, Claudius Griffin settled as a pioneer in Union township, Mercer County, establishing the home which still remains in the family. Both he and his estimable wife endured many hardships which their isolated condition brought about, but they survived them all and lived to tell

their great-grandchildren of the days when all this beautiful, fertile, well-cultivated land was covered with a forest in which wild animals still lived and where many Indians yet made their home. Mrs. Griffin died July 26, 1906, aged 85 years, 6 months and 4 days.

George F. Griffin was educated in the school in the neighborhood of his home, which had been built through the personal efforts of his father. He grew up a practical farmer, he and his brother Nathaniel being the father's main helpers after the death of the older brother, John, in the service of his country. After his marriage, our subject settled on a farm located about three-fourths of a mile from where he now lives, but later removed to the old homestead farm. In 1897 he moved to his present farm. For a number of years he resided in the old log house which had sheltered the family for so long a time, but in October, 1901, he began the erection of the house which the family has occupied since 1902. It is a commodious, comfortable residence, finished in modern style and presents a most attractive appearance, all the surroundings indicating thrift and good taste. In reasonable proximity stands the splendid new barn, one which, for size, convenience and substantial qualities, has scarcely an equal in Mercer County. It is 100 feet long and 46 feet wide and cost over $3,000. Mr. Griffin did considerable work in its construction, himself; otherwise its actual cost would probably have reached $4,000. A structure of this kind was almost a necessity to Mr. Griffin on account of the large agricultural operations he carries on. In addition to engaging in general farming, he raises large numbers of cattle, swine, sheep and horses, devoting particular attention to swine and horses. He feeds 200 head of the former a year and usually feeds all his corn, on but two occasions having any for sale. He works along modern lines in his agricultural operations and his success has made him to be considered one of the best farmers of Union township.

On April 12, 1877, Mr. Griffin was married to Mary Orlida Partner, a daughter of Alexander and Martha Jane (Fryer) Partner. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Griffin, John Partner, was born in Juniata County, Pennsylvania, and died in Ohio, at the home of his son Alexander, in 1875, aged 80 years. His widow died a few years later, aged 82 years. One of their children still survives, Mrs. Sarah Hance, of Spencerville, Ohio. The maternal grandparents were John and Jestinah (Raudabaugh) Fryer, the latter of whom still survives, at the age of 90 years, and resides with her daughter, Mrs. Martha Jane Partner, in a pleasant home at Mendon.

Alexander Partner, father of Mrs. Griffin, was born in Juniata County, Pennsylvania, February 21, 1832. He was seven years old when his parents moved to Trumbull County, Ohio, and in 1840 he came to Mercer County, settling on a farm of 120 acres, east of Mendon. He continued to reside there

until 1890, when he moved to Mendon, where he died January 21, 1904, aged 71 years and 11 months. Mrs. Partner has passed her 71st birthday. Their three children still survive, namely: Mary Orlida, wife of Mr. Griffin; William, who lives at Spencerville, Ohio; and Orpha. The last named is the wife of S. H. Strite; they reside at Berkeley, California. William Partner was married (first) to Rachel Griffin, a sister of our subject. His second marriage was to Jennie Lochard, of Middlepoint, Ohio.

The children born to our subject and wife are six in number, as follows: Ona May, who married W. E. Bowland, a worker in the Indiana oil fields, and has two children, Walter and Jestinah; Ray G., a worker in the oil fields; Floyd B., who assists his father on the farm; John A., who also assists on the home farm; Charles J., who is a bright student of 17 years, now in the Mendon High School; and Velma Ruth, who is also attending school.

In political affiliation, Mr. Griffin is a Republican, but only an active one so far as casting his vote is concerned. Both he and his wife are members of the Church of God. Mr. Griffin was reared in this religious body. The home of his parents was always the home of the preachers as far back as he can remember, and it was through the efforts of his father that the first house of worship was built in this locality. Mrs. Griffin's father was a member of the Presbyterian Church. Her mother is a member of the Baptist Church at Mendon. She has two brothers, John and Lewis Fryer, and two sisters, Mrs. Barbara Cooper, of Union township, and Mary, wife of Isaac Slentz, who resides in the northeast corner of Mercer County.

Accompanying this sketch are shown views of Mr. Griffin's residence and barn, the old Griffin home and a family group showing five generations; the names and ages of the members of this group are as follows: Mrs. Jestinah (Raudabaugh) Fryer, 90; Mrs. Martha (Fryer) Partner, 71; Mrs. Orlida (Partner) Griffin, 51; Mrs. Ona (Griffin) Bowland, 28; and Jestinah Bowland, 2.

REV. THEODOSIUS H. BRACKMANN

Rev. Theodosius H. Brackmann, C. PP. S., pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Recovery township, was born May 18, 1873, in Hanover, Germany, and is a son of Joseph and Katharina (Boewer) Brackmann, who were farming people.

Of the 10 children in the parental family, but six are now living, namely: Mrs. Elizabeth Luehrmann, a resident of Germany; Joseph, who lives on the home place in Germany; Mrs. Bernardina Kemme, who lives in Germany; Theodosius H.; Didacus A., professor in St. Charles Seminary, at Carthagena; and Anna, who lives with her brother, Theodosius H., as housekeeper.

Theodosius H. Brackmann was reared and educated in Germany, and after leaving school worked on his father's farm for two years. In 1891 he came to America and entered St. Joseph's College at Rensselaer, Indiana, from which he was graduated in 1898. He then became a student in St. Charles Seminary, at Carthagena, remaining there for five years. He left the seminary as a missionary in 1903, first as chaplain or assistant priest to Rev. George Hindelang, C. PP, S., at Celina. Among other places to which he has been called are: Fulda, Noble County, Ohio; Springfield, Ohio; Germantown, Missouri, and West Jefferson, Madison County, Ohio. He became pastor of St. Joseph's Church, November 1, 1905, this being his first pastorate.

NOAH COATE

Noah Coate, a well-known progressive agriculturist of Butler township, residing on his farm of 72 acres in section 14, owns also 116 acres of farm land in section 23. He was born December 20, 1853, in Butler township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Benjamin and Mary Magdalene (Yaney) Coate.

Benjamin Coate was born near Ludlow Falls, Miami County, Ohio, where he was reared and educated. In boyhood, during the building of the Grand Reservoir, he came to Mercer County, where in time he acquired a great deal of land, at one time owning a section. He died in the fall of 1905.

Noah Coate was reared and educated in his native township, remaining on the farm with his father until 1885, two years after his marriage, when he moved to his present location. He has built a fine, large, brick house, with a basement, and in 1902 he erected a substantial barn on the opposite side of the road. He has one of the best-improved farms in the county.

Mr. Coate was married to Catherine Cordier and they have nine children, all of whom are still living and are at home: Rosetta, Ray, Lily, Vernal, Clifton, Mary Hannah, Pearly Grace, and Melvie and Myrtle (twins). Mr. Coate belongs to the German Baptist Brethren Church, in which he is a deacon. He is a member of the School Board.

JOHN HENRY ROMER

John Henry Romer, president of the St. Henry Bank, belongs to one of the old and prominent families of Mercer County. He was born at St. Henry, Mercer County, Ohio, January 31, 1840, and is a son of John Joseph and Anna Maria (Klinetrimp) Romer.

John Joseph Romer was a son of Herman Henry Romer, who died in Germany. John Joseph came to America in 1834 and located at Cincinnati, Ohio, where in 1837 he married Anna Maria Klinetrimp, who had come from Germany about the same time as did her husband. They had eight children, as follows: Mary Agnes, who died aged four months; John Henry, of this sketch; John Bernard, born August 1, 1841, who (first) married Elizabeth Bose and (later) Elizabeth Landwehr, and died July 18, 1902; Anna Maria, born May 20, 1843, who married J. Henry Brinkman and died April 24, 1880: Agnes, born January 28, 1845, who is the widow of Wessel Meinerding and lives at Fort Recovery; Elizabeth, born April 20, 1847, who died December 28, 1870, not long after her marriage; Mary Catherine, born February 11, 1850, who married M. A. Schlegel and died January 9, 1894; and Adam Joseph, born December 19, 1851, who married Caroline Anthony and lives at Celina.

John Joseph Romer and wife moved from Cincinnati to Mercer County, in October, 1838. His brother had bought 16 tracts of land of 80 acres each and John Joseph Romer purchased one of these. He was one of the founders of St. Henry and one of the town's very first business men, starting a store in 1840. Before the completion of the canal, he was accustomed to transport all his goods from Cincinnati by wagon. He also engaged in farming. His death occurred at St. Henry, January 17, 1889. His wife died February 12, 1884.

John Henry Romer, our subject, was the first white male child born at St. Henry. He assisted his father during boyhood, on the farm and in the store, and later hauled goods between Cincinnati and St. Henry, driving a four-horse team. It required three or four days to make the trip. In 1867 he opened a general store at St. Henry and conducted a business for about 37 years and then sold out to his nephew, Joseph John Romer, in December, 1903. Mr. Romer then made plans for a banking enterprise, on January 5, 1906, renting a room for the purpose, where business was commenced. Later the company built a brick bank building at St. Henry, and the bank was moved to that, which quarters have been maintained ever since.

On February 26, 1867, Mr. Romer was married to Rebecca Beckman, who was born at St. Henry and is a daughter of the late Henry A. Beckman. They have seven children, as follows: William Henry, born June 28, 1868, who married Amelia Moeller and is cashier of the St. Henry Bank; Herman, born October 30, 1869, who died September 24, 1870; John G., born May 12, 1872, who married Katheryn Van Oss and is a lawyer at Celina; George B., a resident of St. Henry, who married Nora Fredericks; Edward F., assistant cashier of the First National Bank at Celina, who married Josephine Goldie;

Elizabeth, born April 30, 1887, who is teller of the First National Bank at Celina; and Matilda, born September 11, 1889, who is at home.

The grandparents of Mrs. Romer came from Germany. After living a few years in Cincinnati, they came to the vicinity of the present town of Minster, Auglaize County, Ohio, which Gerhard and Rebecca Beckman and a Mr. Stallo laid out. Later the grandparents came to Mercer County and settled in Granville township. They had six children, namely: Mary Anna, Henry A., Catherine, Rebecca, Frank and Mary. Henry A. Beckman was 11 years of age when the family came to America. While living on a farm at St. Henry, he was married, February 11, 1844, to Elizabeth Borgerding, who also came from Germany. They had eight children, namely: John G., Rebecca, wife of Mr. Romer; Mary A., deceased, who married Bernard Frank Romer and died March 18, 1902; Frank; Catherine, who died unmarried; and Joseph, William and Clara, who died in infancy. Mr. Beckman died August 3, 1868, but Mrs. Beckman survived until August 16, 1887. They were well known and most highly respected people. Henry A. Beckman, while never having attended law school, built up a large law practice throughout this and adjoining counties.

Mr. Romer was twice elected township treasurer and served out one term to fill a vacancy. He and his family belong to St. Henry's Catholic Church at St. Henry, and he was secretary of the building committee when the handsome new church was erected. In politics he is a Democrat.

JOHN HENRY WENDELN

John Henry Wendeln, a substantial farmer of Marion township, whose well-developed farm of 120 acres is located in section 26, was born near Minster, Auglaize County, Ohio, and is a son of Fred Wendeln and the grandson of Henry Wendeln.

Henry Wendeln, who was a native of Germany, settled at Minster, Auglaize County, Ohio, as one of the earliest pioneers; there was only one house in the town when he first located there. He purchased three farms of 80 acres each in Auglaize County, paying for the three farms $100. Here he and his wife lived the remainder of their lives. He was the father of six children, namely: Engel, who married Christopher Greve; Mary, who married John Starkemp; Henry, Anthony, William and Fred.

Fred Wendeln was born in Germany and was 15 years old when his parents came to America and settled in Cincinnati, shortly afterward removing to Auglaize County. Mr. Wendeln worked on his father's farm and on the canal for about three or four years, when he returned to Cincinnati. After

residing there for some years, he returned to Minster, purchased a farm of 80 acres and engaged in general farming. Mr. Wendeln was twice married. He was the father of two children by his first wife, namely: William, who married Mary Russ and lives at Minster; and Louisa, who married William Hester and lives at Cincinnati, Ohio. Mr. Wendeln's second marriage was with Mary Bryankamp, who was a native of Germany and a resident of Cincinnati after coming to this country. Seven children were born to the second union: Christopher, who married Sophia Hertman; Anna, who married John Kurter; Mary, who married John Bohmann; John Henry; Elizabeth, who married George Bohmann; Dina, who married John Bruns; and Anthony, who married Mary Meyers. Mr. Wendeln died in October, 1890. His widow is a resident of Minster.

John Henry Wendeln, the subject of this sketch, was reared on the Wendeln home farm in Auglaize County, near Minster. After his marriage, when 21 years of age, he rented a farm in Auglaize County for four years, and then moved to Mercer County. He formed a partnership with John Bohmann and started a sawmill, which they operated together for eight years. He then bought Mr. Bohmann's interest in the mill and continued in the business for two years longer. Selling the saw mill to his brother-in-law, Henry Schulte, he moved to his present farm, which he had purchased two years previously. He purchased the farm from Anthony Tangeman, whose father had bought it from the government. The old government deed is in the possession of our subject. Mr. Wendeln has since been engaged in general farming and has made many improvements on the farm, having built an eight-room frame house, a large barn and other necessary buildings.

Mr. Wendeln was married to Mary Schulte, who was born in October, 1864, and is a daughter of Henry Schulte. Henry Schulte and his wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Wente, were both of German ancestry and were born in Auglaize County, Ohio. They were the parents of 10 children, namely: Mary; Anna, who married Benjamin Nagel, one of the wealthiest farmers of Auglaize County; Henry; Joseph and Louise (twins); Charles; Catherine; Barney; John; and Elizabeth, who married John Gaile. Mr. Schulte died in July, 1906; his widow is living on the home place. Mr. and Mrs. Wendeln have had six children: Frederick, Anna, William (deceased), Rose, Bernardina and Cecilia. Mr. Wendeln and his family are all members of St. John's Catholic Church near Maria Stein.

JOSEPH JOHNSTON

Joseph Johnston, a representative farmer and well-known citizen of Franklin township, who is the owner of a fine farm of 357 acres, was born in

Ireland in 1849, and is a son of James and Martha (Brownly) Johnston.

James Johnston and family came to America in 1851, settling at Piqua, Miami County, Ohio, where he worked as a farmer and teamster until 1854, when he moved to Mercer County, renting a farm within a mile and a half of Coldwater. There the family lived until 1856, when he settled on what is now our subject's homestead in section 13, Butler township, where he died August 31, 1871. His wife died just before the family moved to Mercer County. There were five sons in the family, of whom two survive: Joseph, and his older brother, Nicholas, who owns a farm of 170 acres in sections 13 and 24, Butler township. Two sisters survive: Theresa, who lives on the home farm, and Mrs. Matilda Franks, residing in Indiana.

Joseph Johnston was mainly reared and was educated in Butler township. He has devoted his attention to farming and to boating on the Miami and Erie Canals. His well-improved home farm has a commodious frame dwelling, and his two other farms are equally well tilled; on all of this land he carries on general farming and stock-raising.

In 1894 Mr. Johnston was married (first) to Ida Elizabeth Miller, a daughter of Joseph Miller, of Hopewell township. She died October 19, 1901, survived by three children, namely: Lester Hanson, Esther E. and Helen Goldie. On July 26, 1906, Mr. Johnston was married (second) to Mrs. Mahala C. Lacy, a daughter of the late Daniel and Cynthia (Kerens) Long, who had 12 children; Mr. Long was a farmer in Franklin township. Mrs. Johnston had four children by her first marriage: Mellie, wife of Roy Botkin, residing in Franklin township; George, who married Nellie Clevenger, also residing in Franklin township; Dora, who resides at home; and Willis, who died in infancy.

Politically Mr. Johnston is a Democrat. The family attend the Christian Church, of which Mrs. Johnston is a member.

JOSEPH JOHN ROMER

Joseph John Romer, one of the leading citizens of St. Henry, proprietor of a large general store, was born on his father's farm in Granville township, Mercer County, Ohio, December 21, 1863, and is a son of John Bernard and Elizabeth (Bose) Romer.

The Romer family is one of great prominence in Mercer County and its ancestry can be traced back to the great-grandfather, Herman Henry Romer, who was born in 1776. He married Mary Agnes Macke, who was born in 1780 and died July 7, 1849. They reared a large family.

John Joseph Romer, son of Herman Henry, and the grandfather of our

subject, was born January 11, 1805, and died January 17, 1889. He married Anna Maria Klinetrimp, on July 18, 1837, who was born September 16, 1811, and died February 12, 1884. John Joseph Romer and wife had eight children, namely: Mary Agnes, who died in infancy; John Henry, born January 31, 1840, who married Rebecca Beckman and lives at St. Henry; John Bernard, born August 1, 1841; Anna Maria, born May 20, 1843, who became the wife of J. Henry Brinkman and died April 24, 1880; Agnes, born January 28, 1845, a resident of Fort Recovery, who is the widow of Wessel Meinerding; Elizabeth, born April 20, 1847, who died December 28, 1870, not long after her marriage; Mary Catherine, born February 11, 1850, who became the wife of M. A. Schlegel and died January 9, 1894; and Adam Joseph, born December 19, 1851, who married Caroline Anthony and lives at Celina.

John Bernard Romer, second son of John Joseph Romer and father of our subject, was born at St. Henry. His father, with his two brothers, Henry and Bernard Romer, were the founders of this town. They were all men of thrift and enterprise, German home-builders. They invested in land and became identified with the infant industries of this section and as a family grew in substance and importance. John Bernard Romer was a farmer in Granville township and died there on his own land, July 18, 1902. For his first wife he married Elizabeth Bose, who was a native of Germany. They had four children, as follows: Joseph John, the subject of this sketch; Mary, who is the wife of Andy Rathweg, living at Coldwater; Anna, who is the wife of John Bushman, living at Columbus, Ohio; and Carrie, who is the wife of Henry Plageman, living at Fort Recovery.

After the death of his first wife, John Bernard Romer married Elizabeth Landwehr, and they had seven children, as follows: Bernard and Agnes, who died in infancy; Frederick, who resides with his mother and sisters, at St. Henry; Alexander, who is a resident of Celina; Adolph, who died in infancy; and Elizabeth and Bernardina, who reside with their widowed mother and their brother Frederick at St. Henry.

Joseph John Romer, the immediate subject of this sketch, was educated in the country schools and worked on the farm for his father until he was about 17 years of age, and then went to assist his uncle, John Henry Romer, who was conducting a general mercantile store at St. Henry. After being four years in his uncle's store, he married and then went into partnership with Albert Goldie, his father-in-law, under the firm style of A. Goldie & Company, general merchants at St. Henry. This partnership continued for five years and after it was terminated Mr. Romer went into business for himself. He first rented a small room at St. Henry, but by the end of the first year his business had so increased that larger quarters were secured and Mr. Romer took in Mr. Feldhake as partner, the firm becoming Romer & Feld-

hake. Some 11 months later Mr. Feldhake died and shortly afterward his widow sold her interest to Joseph Bruns.

The firm of Romer & Bruns continued in business at St. Henry for the next five years, when the partners amicably divided the stock and Mr. Romer again began business as an individual. He had retained the old stand, where he remained until December 1, 1903, when he purchased the stock of John Henry Romer, for whom he had originally worked and this added to his own made another removal necessary and Mr. Romer settled then in his present commodious quarters.

Mr. Romer is a thorough merchant, his years of experience having made him thoroughly acquainted with the demands of the public. He carries a very large stock for a town of the size of St. Henry, which he selects with great care and which includes groceries, clothing, shoes, hats, caps, carpets and queensware. In addition to operating his store as mentioned above, Mr. Romer has also the agency for supplying customers with the finest custom-made clothing.

On July 27, 1886, Mr. Romer was married (first) to Sophia E. Goldie, who was born October 17, 1866, at Cincinnati, Ohio, and is a daughter of Albert and Sophia (Slosser) Goldie. The Goldie family came to St. Henry from Carrollton, Kentucky. They reared a large family, but only two survive, these being: Josephine, the wife of Edward Romer, of Celina; and Adelia, wife of Alexander Gottemoller, of Indianapolis. After the death of Mrs. Goldie, Mr. Goldie married Mrs. Frances Martz; they reside at St. Henry.

The first wife of Mr. Romer died on August 23, 1891. She was a most estimable lady and was the mother of four children, namely: Ernest Joseph Albert, born May 17, 1887, deceased, September 6, 1887; Herbert Otto Albert, born July 20, 1888; Sophia Dora, born October 16, 1889, deceased January 6, 1906; and Mary Alvenia, born July 20, 1891, deceased November 25, 1904.

Mr. Romer was married (second), August 24, 1892, to Anna Marie Hartings, who was born at St. Henry, Ohio, January 17, 1879, and is a daughter of John and Catherine (Schurman) Hartings. Mr. and Mrs. Romer have nine children, namely: Florentine Anna Henriette, born June 18, 1893; William Harold, born September 21, 1894; Adolph Henry, born December 9, 1895; Werner Edwin Frank, born March 18, 1898; Lucile Marie Catherine, born October 3, 1899; Stanley Alexander, born May 27, 1901; Joseph Bernard, born March 15, 1903, deceased December 8, 1904; Herman Edward, born February 1, 1905; and Deloras Mary Antoinette, born October 1, 1906. Mr. Romer is of the disposition, and is able, to give his children many educational and social advantages.

Politically Mr. Romer is identified with the Democratic party, but he has

never been a seeker for office, the demands of his private business always claiming his attention. He takes a good citizen's interest in all public matters, however, and as one of the representative men, his judgment is frequently consulted. Mr. Romer is one of the town's prominent and enterprising citizens, always alert to advance its interests. At present he is serving as town treasurer. He was a member of the School Board when the fine new school building was erected. He is a devout member of the Catholic Church.

DAVID HOWICK

David Howick, a retired farmer of Center township, was born March 4, 1842, in this township, on the old home place just north of where he now lives. He is a son of Stephen Howick, who was born in Surrey County, England, in November, 1812.

Stephen Howick was about 16 years of age when he came to the United States. He first located in Lancaster, Ohio, where he cut cord-wood and also worked in a brick-yard. He was married while there. Later, in 1836, he removed to St. Marys, which was then in Mercer County, and worked there until he located permanently in Center township. At one time he was the owner of considerable property. He was engaged in operating a saw-mill for about 20 years. He resided for about 12 years in Celina. His death occurred in 1902, when in his 90th year. He married Eva Minehart, a native of Fairfield County, Ohio, and a daughter of Jacob Minehart. Mrs. Howick's father was one of the first settlers of Fairfield County; he was one of the chain-men in the party that surveyed where Columbus now stands and could have taken land there instead of in Fairfield County. Stephen Howick was the father of five children, namely: David, subject of this sketch; Jacob, who lives in Idaho; George, who lives in Center township, southwest of Neptune; Robert, a resident of Celina, who was killed by lightning; and Daniel, who lives in the State of Washington.

David Howick has always lived in Center township. He grew to manhood on the home place, where he continued to live until he was about 25 years old. He has always been engaged in farming and for 15 years was engaged in the sawmilling business.

Mr. Howick was married in 1863 to Maria Jane Lehman, a native of Perry County, Ohio, and a daughter of Adam P. Lehman, who came to Perry County when she was about four years old and located near Oregon. Mr. Lehman served in the Union Army in the Civil War. Mr. and Mrs. Howick had four children, namely: Amanda, who married Charles M. Schunck, lives in New York and has one child, Carl; Ida, who married Edward J. Rauda-

baugh, lives on Walnut street, Celina, and has three children—Fred, Alice and Dorothy; Stephen F., living on the home place which our subject bought when he first left his father's home, who married Edith Yocum and has two children—Edwin, and Mary; and Mary, who married Dr. George Johnson, a dentist at Celina, and has a son, Wilford. Mrs. Howick died in 1902. About 1894 Mr. Howick left the farm to reside in Celina, where he remained until 1904 when he went to New York City to live with his daughter, Mrs. Schunck. He recently returned from the East and is now living with his son, Stephen F., who has charge of the home farm in Center township. Mr. Howick is a Democrat in politics and has served as township trustee for about six years, was assessor for two terms, real estate appraiser for one term and served on the School Board for some time. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

JOHN G. ROMER

John G. Romer, attorney-at-law at Celina, was born at St. Henry, Mercer County, Ohio, May 12, 1872, and is a son of John Henry and Rebecca (Beckman) Romer.

The father of Mr. Romer was born January 31, 1840, being the first white male child born at St. Henry. He is a son of Joseph Romer, who was born in Germany and came to Cincinnati, Ohio, later, with his two brothers, Henry and Bernard, removing to Mercer County, where they laid out St. Henry in 1837. All three engaged in agricultural and mercantile pursuits here during the remainder of their lives, and all were prominently identified with the development of St. Henry and vicinity. The maternal grandfather of our subject, Henry A. Beckman, was one of the early pioneers of Mercer County. John Henry Romer, father of John G., is the president of the St. Henry Bank. For 35 years he was identified with the important business interests of that place and has but recently curtailed his activities. The mother of our subject was also born at St. Henry. They reared a family of six children, viz.: William Henry, who is cashier of the St. Henry Bank; John G., of this sketch; George B., of St. Henry; Edward F., assistant cashier of the First National Bank at Celina; Elizabeth, teller of the First National Bank at Celina; and Matilda, at home. The second born of the family, Herman, died in infancy.

Mr. Romer was reared at St. Henry and was educated there and at St. Xavier's at Cincinnati, later taking a course at St. Mary's Institute at Dayton. After spending six years as a commercial traveler, he took up the study of the law and in 1900 was graduated from the Kent College of Law, Chicago, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws; in the following year he was given the degree

of Master of Laws by the Illinois College of Law. He located immediately at Celina and has been in active practice ever since, meeting with the recognition which his talents and thorough knowledge of the profession deserve. He has always been more or less interested in politics and has done considerable effective campaigning throughout the county.

On October 10, 1905, Mr. Romer was married to Katheryn Van Oss, of Minster, Auglaize County, Ohio. Mr. Romer was reared in the Catholic Church. He belongs to the Catholic Knights of America, of which he is the State vice-president.

JOHN BERNARD HASLINGER

John Bernard Haslinger, junior member of firm of Haslinger & Son, general merchants at Coldwater, was born at Maria Stein, Ohio, April 26, 1872, and is a son of William and Catherine (Schmeising) Haslinger.

Mr. Haslinger received his early education at Maria Stein, and in laying the foundation for his future career in the business world he took a course in penmanship, bookkeeping, typewriting and stenography at the Coldwater Academy. After graduation he entered his father's shoe store at Maria Stein, but after a short time returned to Coldwater and became a clerk in the general store of John L. Phellis, later purchasing the business in partnership with his father. Under the new management it soon became recognized as one of the leading mercantile houses in this part of the county.

Mr. Haslinger's popularity among his acquaintances and associates was duly attested by his election as corporation treasurer, in which capacity he has served since 1894. In 1902 he was a candidate for county clerk on the Democratic ticket, but there were four candidates and he was defeated by about 200 votes. Mr. Haslinger is a member of the Catholic Church. He belongs to the Knights of St. John.

WILLIAM N. SMITH

William N. Smith, a well-known agriculturist and reliable citizen of Hopewell township, owns a farm of 60 acres, 40 of which are in section 29, where he resides. He was born July 19, 1853, in Liberty township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of George and Gertrude (Wappas) Smith.

This Smith family is of German extraction and was founded in Liberty township by our subject's grandfather, John Smith. The latter brought his family here from Germany in pioneer times, his son George being about 12 years of age when they came to the United States and located in Pennsylvania, soon after removing to Mercer County, Ohio. George Smith became

identified with the leading interests of Liberty township, where he lived a long and useful life, dying June 3, 1901, in his 74th year. He married Gertrude Wappas, also a native of Germany, who died in Liberty township, November 16, 1890, in her 59th year. They had 10 children and the survivors of the family are as follows: William N., of this sketch; Margaret, wife of F. P. Miller, of Hopewell township; George W., of Liberty township; Louisa, wife of William Roberts, of Jefferson township; Emma, wife of Henry Smith, of Hopewell township; and Dulcina, wife of Edward Roettger, of Liberty township.

William N. Smith grew to manhood in Liberty township and has always followed agricultural pursuits. His educational chances were the same as other youths in his locality, and while they were neither so abundant nor so complete as at the present day they served to turn out well-informed men and women. Mr. Smith has always been a friend of the public schools and has testified to his interest by consenting to serve as school director in his district and also as clerk of the school district. Although he is independent in politics, he has been elected to a number of local offices, a pretty good proof of the confidence felt in him by his fellow-citizens. For four years he served as constable and for the past 10 years has been road supervisor of Road District No. 3, Hopewell township. His constant attention to the duties of this position has resulted in the excellent highways enjoyed in this locality.

On December 1, 1874, Mr. Smith was married to Caroline Myers, who was born in Hopewell township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Jacob Myers, who died when she was a child of four years. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have had seven children, as follows: Jacob W., Nora B. (deceased), Matilda J., Ruby D., George E., Gertrude E. and Alfred W. Religiously Mr. Smith and family belong to the Evangelical Association.

JAMES M. HOWICK

James M. Howick, treasurer of Mercer County, is a progressive, intelligent young American, who has never shirked a citizen's duty nor permitted either business or pleasure to divert him from political responsibility. Mr. Howick was born at Neptune, Mercer County, Ohio, June 15, 1873, and is a son of Stephen and Mary J. (Bice) Howick.

The father of Mr. Howick was a prominent citizen and substantial farmer of Mercer County for many years. He was township clerk of Center township and later was postmaster at Neptune. For an extended period he was justice of the peace and was well and favorably known. His death occurred in 1902. He was the father of a family of 10 children.

James M. Howick was reared and educated in Mercer County, where for some years he engaged in teaching school. From early youth he has been a student of politics and has taken a very active part in county and township affairs. Politically in sympathy with the Democratic party, he has frequently been elected to various offices in its gift and served as deputy county auditor and deputy county treasurer and in 1904 he was elected county treasurer. His administration of the office has distinguished him as a man especially qualified for the position and his popularity is universal.

Mr. Howick was united in marriage with Anna M. Kistler, a daughter of John Kistler. Mr. and Mrs. Howick have a pleasant home on East Fulton street, Celina. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically, socially and fraternally Mr. Howick is well known. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Eagles and other organizations.

FRANK J. SONDERMAN

Frank J. Sonderman, a member of the firm of Frank J. Sonderman & Company, leading dealers in dry goods, clothing, shoes and carpets, at Fort Recovery, was born at Fort Recovery, January 7, 1870, and is a son of Anthony and Agnes (Harter) Sonderman.

Anthony Sonderman was a wagon-maker by trade and was one of the early pioneers of Fort Recovery. He was past 70 years of age at the time of his death, which occurred in the spring of 1896. He was the father of five children: Mary Elizabeth, deceased at the age of three years; John A., who died in 1882 aged 20 years; Mary Louise, a member of the firm of Frank J. Sonderman & Company, who married S. N. Seifert, and has four children —William L., August Frank, George and John V.; Frank J., the subject of this sketch; and William, also a member of the firm of Frank J. Sonderman & Company.

Frank J. Sonderman was reared in Fort Recovery and at the age of 13 years left school and went to work in a hardware store, where he remained for three years. He then went to work as clerk for Krenning & Son in November, 1885, which position he held until 1891. His next position was that of clerk in a large dry goods store in Toledo, Ohio, where he worked for one year and a half, when he was obliged to return to Fort Recovery on account of his father's ill health. In 1893 he established the firm of Frank J. Sonderman & Company, consisting of his sister, Mrs. S. N. Seifert, his brother William and himself. The store was opened in a small way in a building owned by Charles Schneider, and the same lines were carried which they now handle, viz., dry goods, men's clothing, shoes, carpets, etc. They were in the

Schneider Building until 1903, when they moved to their present location in the Fetter Block, occupying the entire ground floor of two store-rooms, half of the second floor and the basement. The firm has increased the volume of its business each year, and now carries a very large stock of the lines dealt in, which have been mentioned above.

Mr. Sonderman was married November 12, 1895, to Mary A. Schunck, a daughter of Jacob Schunck, of Celina. They have had three children: Catherine Agnes, Madonna L. and Agnes Florence. Mr. Sonderman is a member of the Catholic Church and also of the Catholic Knights of Ohio.

ELI H. KELLY

Eli H. Kelly, residing in section 22, Washington township, owns 150 acres of valuable farm land and is one of the survivors of the Civil War. He was born March 12, 1839, in Stark County, Ohio, and is a son of David and Catherine (Biler) Kelly, who were the parents of eight children.

The parents of Eli Kelly moved to Knox County, Ohio, in his infancy, where they lived for five years, then lived in Allen County for two years, after which they resided for 11 months in Adams County, Indiana. They finally located in Liberty township, Mercer County, in 1851, and it was here that our subject was reared. His father bought a farm of 80 acres which Eli assisted in clearing and cultivating. By attending school during the winter he secured an education and after leaving school he taught for three years; also one year after his marriage. In October, 1882, he enlisted in the 120th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., and served for 13 months. He had enlisted for three years but was severely wounded in the battle of Thompson's Hill, May 1, 1863, which prevented any further military service. He participated in the battles of Chickasaw Bluff and Arkansas Post, in the Army of the Mississippi under General Sherman. His regiment then went under the command of General Grant, going to Vicksburg, Mississippi, where it did hard labor building a canal, then ran the blockade at Vicksburg, on the Grand Gulf and marched all night to Thompson's Hill, going into battle the next morning without anything to eat. About 11 o'clock that morning Mr. Kelly was severely wounded in the left hand by a musket ball, which tore part of it away. He was then sent to the field hospital where he underwent an operation, being later removed to a hospital near Grand Gulf, where rations were cut off and Mr. Kelly had nothing to eat for four days. He was later moved to a camp near Vicksburg, where he took fever and was moved from camp to camp until June 1st, when he was sent to St. Louis where he lay in the hospital for three months. After leaving the hospital, he obtained quarters in St. Louis, and

ORIGINAL HOME OF JOSEPH S. SPRINGER

RESIDENCE AND FAMILY GROUP OF JOSEPH S. SPRINGER.

after examination was assigned to the Invalid Corps, but was rejected. He then underwent a medical examination and was finally discharged after 13 months of most trying experiences.

Mr. Kelly then returned to his home in Washington township, whither his wife had moved in the meantime, and where she owned a farm of 40 acres, which is now the residence property of Mr. Kelly and his family. He was ill for a long time after returning from the war, but upon his recovery engaged in farming. He bought 40 acres of land in Liberty township in 1865, which he later sold and bought 80 acres in section 12, Washington township; he has also 20 acres in section 24. He has cleared the greater part of this land and has left about 30 acres of timber.

Mr. Kelly was married in 1861 to Cynthia Kannard, a daughter of George Kannard, and they have had seven children, namely: John, who was educated at the Western Ohio Normal School, at Middlepoint, later taught school three years and is now interested in a stone quarry at Middlepoint—he has a family of five children; George Albert, who is married and resides on his 40-acre farm in Recovery township; Rusha, who married Robert McQueen and lives on her father's farm in section 12, Washington township; Viola, who married Michael Konrath and at her death left one child, which lived only a week; William; Etta, who married Jacob Clouse, lives in Kansas and has three children; and Estella, who lives at home. Mr. Kelly is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and belongs to Washington Grange, P. of H.

JOSEPH S. SPRINGER

Joseph S. Springer, owner and proprietor of tile works and a sawmill in Center township, is one of the most active and progressive business men of the county. Starting with nothing but a will to work, he has prospered in everything he has undertaken and to-day stands among the township's most substantial citizens.

Joseph S. Springer was born in Center township, September 11, 1856, and is a son of Abraham and Mary Ann (Zartman) Springer. Abraham Springer was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, April 14, 1824, and died in December, 1900. He was a son of Jacob Springer, who came from Rockingham County, Virginia, with his father, George Springer. Abraham Springer lived in Fairfield County until after his marriage. He was 18 years old at the time of his marriage to Rebecca Mohler; they moved to Mercer County in the spring of 1852 and his wife died shortly after they located in Center township, leaving five children, as follows: Mrs. Cassie Bupp, deceased; David, who lives in Center township; Abraham, who lives at Van Wert, Ohio;

Rebecca, deceased, who was the wife of L. D. Conner; and Levi E., who lives at Montezuma. On April 1, 1855, Mr. Springer was married to Mary Ann Zartman, who was born and raised in Perry County, Ohio, and was a daughter of Solomon Zartman. Her death occurred in March, 1885. The following were the children of the second marriage: Joseph S.; Mary Jane, who married A. J. Fast and resides at St. Marys; and Lucy Ann, who married E. E. Hayes and lives at Fort Wayne, Indiana. Our subject's father continued to live in Center township until about the year 1893, when he rented his farm and went to St. Marys to live.

Joseph S. Springer's boyhood was spent on the home farm assisting his father. In 1878, soon after his marriage, he rented the homestead. As the place was too small to keep him busy all the time, he farmed in summer and in the fall ran a threshing machine with some success. In the fall of 1882, while running a hay bailer for "Uncle" Wesley Copeland, the latter asked him why he didn't start a tile kiln, which the substantial farmers of the vicinity felt the need of. The reply of Mr. Springer was that he had no money, whereupon Mr. Copeland remarked that he and others had money and asked him to consider the project. After considerable urging, Mr. Springer agreed to establish the plant upon the condition that the men who advanced the money would accept his notes, secured only by such property as he himself possessed, the notes to be paid in tile. This being satisfactory, $1,500 was raised in one day in sums of $100 and less. He leased of G. W. Raudabaugh the 12 acres on which his plant and home is now located, and set about clearing a place of sufficient size on which to build. In the following spring (1883) he erected a log cabin, which was not entirely finished, although the family had moved in, at the time of the great snowstorm of May 20th and 21st of that year, when 16 inches of snow fell. It sifted through the cracks to a depth of six inches on the second floor. Mr. Springer took his brother-in-law, E. E. Hayes, into partnership with him and they started the tile-manufacturing business together. At the end of two years, Mr. Hayes was succeeded by a brother of our subject, Levi E. Springer; since the fall of 1887, Joseph S. Springer has been sole owner and proprietor. As his business increased, he found it necessary to enlarge his plant, which he did not wish to do on rented land. In the fall of 1892 he contracted with G. W. Raudabaugh for the purchase of the 12-acre tract on which he was located, the deal being consummated the following spring. As soon as the contract was entered into, Mr. Springer began clearing more of the land, starting a sawmill in the fall of 1892 in order to work up his own timber. That was the beginning of the mill branch of his business, which he has continued ever since. In the spring he began building new sheds and had the work nearly completed, when almost the entire family contracted typhoid fever, Mr. and Mrs. Springer and seven

AN OLD VIEW OF THE PLANT

A RECENT VIEW OF THE PLANT

WORKING IN THE CLAY PIT

THE TILE WORKS OF JOSEPH S. SPRINGER

children being sick abed at one time. Later their three-weeks' old baby was taken down with the same disease. Although all were very sick and business and new improvements were at a standstill until the fall of 1893, Mr. Springer considers himself very fortunate in that all recovered. During the fall of 1893 the new sheds were completed, and work resumed in the sawmill. In the spring of 1894 he again started up with renewed energy, and has continued ever since without interruption, running from 16 to 22 kilns per year since that time. In 1903 he found it necessary to again rebuild, enlarging kiln and sheds, also installing a new boiler. He has six men employed in the kiln in addition to himself.

He has a farm of 120 acres lying contiguous to his original 12-acre tract. It is mostly timberland, having but 30 acres under cultivation. The acquisition of this property was another stroke of good fortune, and gave evidence of the great confidence the men with whom he had had business dealings had in him. Mr. Raudabaugh, the owner of the tract, died in 1897, and the executors of his estate urged Mr. Springer to purchase the property, as he was in a good position to handle the timber. He saw the great opportunity presented, and explained his inability, through lack of funds. The executors urged him to make the effort, saying they would require a first payment of but $1,500, and $500 annually thereafter until $4,000 had been paid. It was the first payment which bothered him, and it was here that the credit he enjoyed in the business world was demonstrated. Having had dealings with the St. Marys Wheel & Spoke Company, which had had dealings with him for some years, offered to let him have $3,000 on the land if he wished. He wanted but $1,000, which they agreed to let him have, but at the last some slight differences came up between them and Mr. Springer refused the loan. An equal amount of money was then tendered him by Calvin E. Riley of the Commercial Bank Company, of Celina, and at the same time the executors agreed to waive the cash payment at first exacted. The deed was transferred in the fall of 1898. He then set to work with a will and managed to pay the hands without drawing on the St. Marys Wheel & Spoke Company, to whom he was shipping his product. He had an accounting with that company June 6, 1899, and with the $1,143 due him from them he paid the $1,000 mortgage and interest. Although the $500 payments were due on the first of May annually, he did not wait until May 1st, but paid as he could and in a little more than two years had his property free from all incumbrance. He received an offer of $30 per acre for second growth hickory, ash and oak timber standing, and that he was right in refusing this offer is shown by the fact that he has made $2,500 from the timber of the 30 acres he has cleared.

In 1900 Mr. Springer began the erection of a fine 10-room house, built

of vitrified blocks. It was completed in 1901 and makes a handsome and commodious home.

Joseph S. Springer was married December 21, 1877, to Phebe Ann Fast, who was born in Center township, Mercer County, Ohio, December 23, 1858, and is a daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Stuck) Fast. They have children, namely: Clarence W., who married Catherine Makley and has two children, Paul and Mary Magalene—he lives at St. Marys and is cashier and assistant manager of the St. Marys Wheel & Spoke Company; Nora Esther, who married A. A. Shupp and has two children, Dottie and Zelma; Dennis Sidney, bookkeeper of the St. Marys Wheel and Spoke Company; Ashley Plaine, at present a student at the International Business College, Fort Wayne, Indiana; Russell C., who is a student at the Lima Business College; Mary Ethel; Alice; Lawrence and Elsie H. Mr. Springer is a Republican in national politics, but is independent in local politics. He is a member of the United Brethren Church, and belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge at Celina.

Accompanying this sketch are views of Mr. Springer's old home, his present home and his tile works, also a family group picture.

PETER ALT

Peter Alt, one of Liberty township's most substantial citizens and extensive farmers, resides in section 15, his home farm comprising 80 acres, while the whole extent of the land he owns sums up to 280 acres. Mr. Alt was born in Oberalben, Kusel, Rheinpfalz, Bavaria, Germany, January 2, 1854, and is a son of Adam and Elizabeth Alt, natives of Germany. The father is deceased, but the mother survives and lives with her son Peter.

Peter Alt began his military service in the German Army in 1874, at the age of 20 years, and so continued for two years. In 1877 he emigrated to America in company with other members of his family and they settled on the farm where he has lived ever since. This property he has brought to a fine state of cultivation and carries on general farming.

Mr. Alt married Hermina German, who was also born in Germany and they have had six children, the four survivors being: Mary, wife of Jacob Gehm, of Liberty township; Caroline, wife of Valentine Deitsch, of Liberty township; and Annie and William P., who live at home. Mr. Alt has given his children many advantages and has reared them to be industrious and respected members of the community.

In politics he is a Democrat. He has served as a school director of District No. 5, one of the best regulated districts in the township. For almost all his life he has been a member of the German Evangelical Church, belong-

ing to St. Paul's congregation. He is a man who commands the respect and confidence of his fellow-citizens.

BERNARD LEUGERS

Bernard Leugers, one of the prominent agriculturists of Marion township, residing on his valuable farm of 243 acres in section 33, was born on this, the old home farm, July 15, 1845, and is a son of George and Catherine (Herkenhoff) Leugers.

The parents of Mr. Leugers were born in Germany and came to America about 1835, locating at Cincinnati, where they lived some two years and then came to Mercer County. The father bought a farm of 80 acres from the government, for which he paid $1.25 per acre, and with German thrift continued to add to his possessions until he had 300 acres. His family consisted of five children, namely: Henry, deceased, who married Theresa Post; George, residing at Burkettsville, who married Mary Rumping; Mary, who married Henry Mesker—both now deceased; Sophia, who died in childhood; and Bernard.

Bernard Leugers attended the schools nearest to his father's farm in his boyhood, his path leading through the woods that then surrounded the homestead. Deer were very plentiful in that neighborhood and he remembers seeing a herd of 27 one day on his way to school. Like other boys of his day he had a rifle, one his father bought in Cincinnati, and which he still owns, which did good service in supplying fresh meat for the family larder. It has provided many a wild turkey feast and in one fall Mr. Leugers killed 80 raccoons. The first house on the farm was a round-log cabin, but it was full of comfort as he recalls it. The father died on the old farm in 1880 and our subject, who had always remained at home assisting him, came into the possession of the farm and he still continues some of the industries his sensible, far-seeing father started. One of these is bee-keeping. He has a large assortment of bees and derives a large income from the sale of honey.

Mr. Leugers resides in a house his father built, it being the third one erected on the place, each one better than the one before, but he, himself, built the barn and other farm buildings and has made many substantial improvements. He operates, with the help of his capable sons, 243 acres, carrying on general farming, but has owned, at times, as much as 400 acres, some of which he has given his sons.

On February 8, 1872, Mr. Leugers was married (first) to Caroline Ording, who died January 4, 1880, the mother of four children, namely: Catherine, deceased; George, residing in Darke County, who married Mary Sumbring, and has four children—Anna, Carrie, Henry and August; Henry, re-

siding in Mercer County, who married Philomena Sumbring and has one child, Rose; and Mary, who married Edward Hessalmann, lives in Mercer County and has had four children—Cecilia, Anna, Frances (deceased), and Bernardina.

In August, 1880, Mr. Leugers was married (second) to Catherine Laux, who died in 1895. She was a daughter of Adam Laux. They had these children: Catherine, who married Henry Geise, resides at New Weston, Darke County, and has three children—Laney, Freda and Frances; Barney, residing in Marion township, who married Elizabeth Heckman and has two children—Clement and Joseph; and John (born April 2, 1885), Gerhard (born August 22, 1887), and Herman (born August 24, 1889), who reside at home.

In February, 1898, Mr. Leugers was married (third) to Mrs. Elizabeth (Stearwal) Eyink, widow of Engelbert Eyink, and a daughter of Henry Stearwal. Elizabeth Stearwal was born in Germany and came to America alone, when 17 years of age. She was married (first) to Clemmens Heckman and after his death she married Engelbert Eyink, and was again left a widow. To her first marriage were born: Elizabeth, Rose and Joseph, and to her second, Anthony.

Mr. and Mrs. Leugers are devoted members of St. Rose's Catholic Church. Politically our subject is a stanch Democrat. He has served two years as road supervisor and during that period proved himself a faithful and capable public official. Mr. Leugers is a very pleasant man to meet and his fund of stories of his boyhood and early days on the farm and in the woods is inexhaustible and full of interest.

WILLIAM LEWIS BOLTON

William Lewis Bolton, who has been engaged for the past 27 years in teaching school throughout Mercer County, is also engaged in farming in Union township. He was born December 29, 1859, and is a son of Lewis and Mary (Parker) Bolton.

Lewis Bolton died in 1860, shortly before the outbreak of the Civil War. He was the father of four children, namely: Matilda, deceased in childhood; Mary Loretta, wife of Ira T. Wollam, of Union township; Simon Peter, who married Martha Hinkle and resided at Mercer, where he died; and William Lewis. After her husband's death, Mrs. Bolton was married to Noah Pile, and had one child by the second marriage, namely, Basil T. Pile, who resides in Van Wert County, 10 miles west of Van Wert. The mother of our subject was living with her daughter, Mrs. Ira T. Wollam, at the time of her death, which occurred about 1872.

William L. Bolton first attended school at the Frisinger school in Dublin township and his first teacher was David Counterman, who is now a resident of Mercer. His stepfather, Noah Pile, then sold the Bolton home farm in Union township, which consisted of 160 acres, and located on the Nathan Frisinger farm in Dublin township for a time; it was while living here that our subject began his school attendance. A little later Mr. Pile bought an 80-acre farm in Jefferson township. After a five years' residence in Dublin and Jefferson townships, the family returned to the old home farm in Union township, as the purchaser had been unable to pay for the place. In 1872 the house, which is now occupied by Mrs. Ira T. Wollam, was erected, and Mr. Bolton resided here with his sister for several years after the death of his mother. Rev. Timothy Hankins, of Center township, who was a firm friend of his parents, was appointed his guardian and our subject resided with him for some time, after which he went to Celina and other places in order to learn some trade, but not being able to get an apprenticeship he attended a select school conducted by John W. Loree, who is at present one of the leading members of the bar at Celina. The following spring he attended a select school at Mendon conducted by Prof. Rush Hooper, where he received a certificate and then taught until he attained his majority, when he received his legacy and purchased the 40 acres of land where his house now stands. He spent two or three terms at the Ohio Normal University at Ada and has since been engaged in teaching school during the winter terms and also during some of the spring terms. With the exception of three terms, he has always taught in Union township, north of the St. Marys River; he has taught one winter term in Jefferson township, one in Dublin, and one term (winter of 1906) in York township, Van Wert County. Mr. Bolton has always been active in educational work and is regarded as one of the most successful instructors in the county. His farm, which consists of 80 acres, has all been cleared with the exception of 26 acres, and has been tiled and drained since he purchased it. He moved on the farm in 1889 and erected a new barn and residence.

Mr. Bolton was married on October 11, 1882, to Emma Brown, a daughter of Alexander and Margaret (Bevington) Brown. Mr. Brown was born near New Castle, Pennsylvania, and moved, when scarcely a man in years, to Van Wert County, Ohio, where he and William Heath bought 40 acres of land, that became the nucleus of the Alexander Brown homestead. Brown was obliged to borrow $50 of his uncle, William Heath, to make the first payment on the place. He was the father of eight children and at his death left to each child 40 acres of land. Mr. Brown died May 26, 1896, aged 69 years and his wife, who was a native of York township, Van Wert County, Ohio, died December 17, 1896, aged 65 years. The maternal

grandparents of Mrs. Bolton were John and Elizabeth Bevington, who were among the earliest settlers of Van Wert County. The paternal grandparents of Mrs. Bolton were Robert and Margaret Brown, who were also early settlers of Van Wert County, coming from New Castle, Pennsylvania, at a very early date.

Mr. and Mrs. Bolton have had eight children, namely: Ray Rudolph, born April 20, 1884, who is a student of the Ohio University at Athens; Edgar William, born March 1, 1886, a graduate of the Mendon High School, who is a student at the Ohio University at Athens; Ross Lee, born October 15, 1888, who will graduate from the Mendon High School in the class of 1907; Bessie Ethel, born September 15, 1891, who will enter the Mendon High School in 1907; Louis, born October 24, 1893; Margaret Albina, born June 15, 1896; Harold O., born December 29, 1898; Bernice Loretta, born July 29, 1901; and Garland and two other children that died in infancy.

Mr. Bolton is a member of Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church and is a member also of the fraternal insurance organization known as the Home Guards of America. He is a Republican in politics, but exercises the privilege of voting for the best man for the office, regardless of party.

SAMUEL J. VINING

Samuel J. Vining, who is engaged in a real estate and insurance business at Celina, being one of the representative men of the village, was born in Randolph County, Indiana, in 1864, and is a son of the late Robert M. Vining, who was in his day one of the most prominent men of Mercer County.

When he was about six months old, the parents of Mr. Vining removed to Darke County, and he was educated there and at Portland, Indiana. In 1880 he located at Chattanooga, Mercer County, where he engaged in farming and also taught school in Black Creek township for 14 years. In 1896 he was elected clerk of the courts of Mercer County, and in 1899 he was reelected and served through six years, making a record for efficiency. Since leaving the clerk's office, he has been engaged in a real estate and general fire insurance business and represents the leading fire insurance companies of the country, some 23 in all. In his realty dealings he mainly buys and sells for himself, acting the part of a broker as occasion offers and placing safe investments when so desired. He is recognized as an honorable business man and enjoys the confidence of all who know him. He is a director in the Citizens' Banking Company, and is secretary of the Mercer County

Agricultural Society. He has also served as a member of the Board of Education of Celina for a period covering nine years.

In 1887 Mr. Vining was married to Addie Ellsworth, of Mercer County, and they have three children, viz: Vernon Ellsworth, who is a recent graduate of the public schools; Valley Echo and Leo Heath.

Mr. Vining is a man of social instincts and is a valued member of the Knights of Pythias, Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorassan, Odd Fellows, Woodmen of the World and Eagles.

JOSEPH PLEIMAN

Joseph Pleiman, who died May 31, 1896, on his valuable farm of 95 acres, located in section 4, Butler township, was born at Philothea, Mercer County, Ohio, in 1848.

Mr. Pleiman was married in 1883, in Butler township, to Theresa Zumberge, a daughter of Henry and Kate Zumberge, who died in Germany. Mrs. Pleiman was born and reared in Germany and when 21 years old came to America. She lived first in Minster, Auglaize County, but since her marriage has resided on the farm which she has capably managed since her husband's death, and to which she has added 18 acres, making 113 acres in all. Mrs. Pleiman had six children, namely: Josephine, who married Joseph Ullerman and has two children, Rosella and Annie; Joseph; George; Frances; and Rosa and John, who died in infancy. The family belong to St. Mary's Catholic Church at Philothea.

Mr. Pleiman was a widower with four children at the time of his marriage to Theresa Zumberge. The children by his first marriage were as follows: Mary, who married Henry Neiberding; Katie, who married Charles Stukenborg; Elizabeth, who married Henry Renz; and Anna, deceased, who was the wife of Henry Shearer.

JOSEPH A. KUHN

Joseph A. Kuhn, who resides on his well-developed farm of 40 acres, situated in section 9, Jefferson township, was born in Jackson County, Ohio, October 1, 1866, and is a son of Anthony and Hester Ann (Swartz) (Bucanon) Kuhn.

Anthony Kuhn and wife were the parents of five children, three of whom are still living. The record is as follows: Emma, who died aged 20 years; James, who lives in California; Joseph A.; Margaret, who mar-

ried William Webster and lives in Piqua, Ohio; and William, who died aged three years. After the death of Mr. Kuhn, his widow married Jonathan Botkin. At the time of her marriage to Mr. Kuhn, she was the widow of Joseph Bucanon, and had one son, John L. Bucanon, a resident of Butler township. Mrs. Botkin died March 15, 1893.

Joseph A. Kuhn was reared and educated in Butler township, Mercer County, where his parents settled when he was but three years old, his father having purchased a farm of 80 acres. Mr. Kuhn resided in Butler township until after his marriage, when he moved to Jefferson township, purchasing the farm upon which he now lives in April, 1904.

Mr. Kuhn was married on November 15, 1894, to Rosa Goodnick, a daughter of John and Catherine (Schilling) Goodnick, both natives of Germany, who were brought to America by their respective parents when children. At the time of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Goodnick, she was the widow of Joseph Royer, of Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Goodnick died August 1, 1884, his wife surviving him until March 9, 1903. Mr. Kuhn has two children, namely: John Anthony, who was born January 8, 1896; and Eugene Robert, who was born February 2, 1905. Mr. Kuhn is also raising a niece, Millie Maria Goodnick. Mr. Kuhn is a Democrat and was elected by that party, in the fall of 1905, to serve a term of three years as township trustee.

J. B. SCHMITT

J. B. Schmitt, a well-known citizen and one of the leading grocers of Celina, was born in Marion township, Mercer County, Ohio, August 24, 1861, and is a son of Barney Schmitt.

Barney Schmitt was born in Mercer County, where his father, a native of Germany, was one of the pioneer settlers, and where they both became prominent farmers.

J. B. Schmitt was reared on a farm in Marion township and was educated in the district schools, remaining on the farm until 26 years of age. After leaving the farm, he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, hoping to find suitable employment. Within a few days after his arrival in the city, he secured employment with Eckert Brothers, wholesalers and retailers of notions, and remained with them for three and a half years, at the end of which time he was employed by I. W. Klaw & Company, clothiers, and remained with them for the next three years. He then moved to Celina and engaged in the grocery business, in which he has since been engaged. Mr. Schmitt also has interests in several stock companies.

Mr. Schmitt was married on November 13, 1893, to Josephine Schweitermann and has one child, Hilda. He and his family are members of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church at Celina. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of St. John, St. Joseph's Aid Society, and the German Independent Aid Society and the Eagles.

IRA T. WOLLAM

Ira T. Wollam, a prosperous farmer of Union township, whose well-developed farm of 80 acres is located in section 5, was born March 15, 1847, in Columbiana County, Ohio, and is a son of Alfred and Nancy (Thomas) Wollam.

Alfred Wollam, a native of Columbiana County, Ohio, was born February 8, 1820, and died in January, 1898, in his 78th year. He was a son of Jacob Wollam, a native of Virginia, and a resident of Columbiana County during the latter years of his life, who was always engaged in farming. He was a son of Balsam Wollam. Alfred Wollam was married to Nancy Thomas in his native county, after which he moved to Fairfield County and lived there for a period of 16 years, then removing to Mercer County in 1865 and locating two miles east of Celina in Jefferson township, where he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Wollam were the parents of seven boys and two daughters, as follows: Ira T.; Hiram, a preacher of the Society of Friends, who resides in Richmond, Indiana; Warren J., carpenter by trade, residing at Hood River, Oregon; Byron, a painter by trade, living at St. Marys, Ohio; Emma, who married Ellsworth Green and lives on a farm near Celina; Joseph M., who resides in York township, Van Wert County, where he is engaged in farming; Maria, who married Walter Townsend, of Neptune; George H., who resides on the home farm two miles southeast of Celina; and Michael H., who resides on the line between Van Wert and Paulding counties. Mrs. Wollam died in 1902 at the age of 80 years.

Ira T. Wollam passed his early boyhood days in Columbiana County. He was about 16 years old when his parents moved to Mercer County, and he has resided in this county since that time. Mr. Wollam purchased the farm upon which he now resides in the spring of 1876, at which time it was wholly unimproved. He has made many improvements, having built a fine barn and other buildings and having cleared a greater part of the farm, which was chiefly timberland when he became the owner.

On February 25, 1869, Mr. Wollam was married to Mary Loretta Bolton, a daughter of Lewis and Mary (Parker) Bolton, who came from

Knox County, Ohio, and settled in Mercer County just south of Mendon. Mr. Bolton was born January 12, 1825, and died November 25, 1860. Mary Parker was born December 25, 1824, and was married to Mr. Bolton on October 30, 1845. They had four children, namely: Matilda, deceased; William Lewis, who resides on a farm in Union township; Simon Peter, deceased; and Mary, the wife of our subject. After the death of Mr. Bolton, his widow again married, this time to Noah Pile, and has one son by this marriage, Basil T. Pile.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wollam, namely: Ella, who married Isam Ross and lives in Union township; Mattie, who married Parker Rhodes, resides on a farm in Union township and has three children—Hazel, Frank and Lena; Charles, deceased at the age of 10 years; Alice, who married Oscar Waltz, of Van Wert County, and has two children—Edna Pauline and Ira Kenneth; and Nannie and Bessie, who live at home.

In the Civil War, Mr. Wollam served in Company D, 193rd Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., under Gen. Winfield S. Hancock. He was mustered in at Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, and participated in battles throughout West Virginia and Maryland. He was mustered out at Winchester, Virginia, and discharged at Camp Chase. He is a member of McKendree-Murlin Post, No. 318, G. A. R. Mr. Wollam is a Republican and was first elected township trustee in 1884, serving for seven years. After an intermission of nine years, he was again elected, in 1899, and has since served seven years. In 1903, while Mr. Wollam was trustee, the splendid Town Hall at Mendon was erected jointly by Union township and Mendon village at a cost of about $12,000. It is one of the finest buildings in the county, being in every way modern in architecture, construction and appointments. The same building at the present time would cost at least $14,000. Mr. Wollam makes a popular officer and his services have been entirely satisfactory to his fellow-citizens. Mr. Wollam began life entirely on his own resources and to-day stands among the most prosperous farmers of the township. He has bought and paid for his home and farm of 80 acres. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. lodge at Mendon, and is connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church.

CASPER CLUNE

Casper Clune, a substantial farmer of Marion township, who resides on his 160-acre farm in section 10, was born on this farm January 28, 1866, and is a son of Gerhard and Bernardina (Wabler) Clune.

Gerhard Clune and his wife were both natives of Germany. He came

to America when a young man and settled in Mercer County, purchasing a small farm of 40 acres in Marion township, which is part of the farm now owned by Casper Clune. He was engaged in working on the canal in Auglaize County for a time, as well as managing the farm, to which he kept adding until at the time of his death, September 25, 1875, at the age of 48 years, he owned 200 acres. He was married to Bernardina Wabler, who died in May, 1904, aged 66 years. They became the parents of 11 children, namely: Frank, who died aged 20 years; Mary, who died in childhood; Barney, who married a Miss Bolsinger; Bernardina, deceased, who married John Betke; Joseph, residing at St. Joseph; Josephine, who married Henry Meyer; Casper; Henry, deceased; Elizabeth, deceased; Catherine, who married John Kroger; and Gerhard, who married Miss Gabbel.

Casper Clune was reared on his father's farm and assisted with the work until the time of his marriage at the age of 26 years. He bought his present farm from his mother in 1893. The first house built on the Clune farm was a log cabin, in which Casper was born, and the six-room house which Mr. Clune and his family occupy was built in 1871 by his father, who made his own brick and hewed his own timber. Mr. Clune remembers the time when the turnpike on which he now lives was a plank road, and also when his father was obliged to carry his grain on his back through the woods and brush, to the mill at Piqua, Ohio. In the spring of 1906, Mr. Clune bought a partnership in the Chickasaw Grain & Milling Company.

Mr. Clune has been married three times, (first) to Catherine Dabbelt, who had four children—Nora, Rose (deceased), Minnie and John—and died in 1900. He was married (second) to Josephine Schroeder, who died April 24, 1906. One child was born to this union, Joseph, who is deceased. Mr. Clune was married (third) to Anna Ashman, a daughter of Henry Ashman, a native of Germany, residing at Cassella, Mercer County. Mrs. Clune is one of a family of nine children born to her parents, namely: Elizabeth, who married Anthony Fosçal; Mary, who married Dick Bieler; John; Joseph; Anna; Agnes; Catherine; Henry and Philomena. Mr. Clune has been a member of the School Board for four years. He belongs to the Most Precious Blood Catholic Church at Chickasaw.

PETER LINN

Peter Linn, a prominent citizen of Liberty township and a member of the Board of County Commissioners, resides on his finely improved farm of 80 acres, which he has placed under a fine state of cultivation. Mr. Linn

was born in Bavaria, Germany, March 4, 1859, and is a son of Philip and Gertrude (Fuchs) Linn.

The parents of Mr. Linn were also natives of Bavaria. His mother died when he was 11 years of age and he was 14 years old when his father brought the children to America and settled in Liberty township, Mercer County, Ohio. Two years later the father went back to Germany, where he died.

Peter Linn grew to manhood in Mercer County. The schooling he had received in Bavaria was supplemented by that he obtained in Liberty township, and as a large part of his life has been spent among intelligent people and as he has held important offices in his neighborhood, in the discharge of the duties of which offices he has been obliged to use great good judgment, Mr. Linn may be fairly considered one of the best informed men in his locality. He has resided upon his present farm since 1882.

In 1881 Mr. Linn was married to Caroline Menchofer, who was born in Mercer County, Ohio, and they have had six children, namely: Mary, who died aged two months; Saloma, Adrienne, Annie, Bertha and Walter.

Politically Mr. Linn is identified with the Democratic party. For three years he was a trustee of Liberty township, of which he has also been land appraiser. In the fall of 1902 he was elected county commissioner and entered upon the duties of this important office in September, 1903, and is still serving, having been reelected in the fall of 1905. He is a member of the Lutheran Church. He stands as one of the representative citizens of his township and personally is held in high esteem.

JOHN HENRY MORROW

John Henry Morrow, a well-known citizen of Hopewell township, formerly assessor of the same for several years, resides on his home farm of 80 acres, in section 22, and owns 40 additional acres in the vicinity. Mr. Morrow was born in Hopewell township, Mercer County, Ohio, January 27, 1856, and is a son of William and Mary (Wilson) Morrow, both natives of Ohio.

Mr. Morrow was reared on his father's farm in his native township and attended the local schools. His occupations have always been of an agricultural nature, and as he was thoroughly trained in practical farming he has met with very satisfying success since he has been engaged on his own account. His 120-acre estate is valuable land and his home is one of comfort and convenience.

Mr. Morrow married Mary Weaver, the estimable daughter of John

Weaver, of Hopewell township, and they had four children, as follows: Stella, Perry, Clara and Nora. Stella is the only survivor. With his family, Mr. Morrow belongs to the United Brethren Church, in which he is serving as a trustee. He is well known in his neighborhood and is held in esteem on account of his sterling qualities and good citizenship.

ORLINGTON BARKER

Orlington Barker, a substantial farmer of Butler township, residing on a farm of 120 acres situated in section 25, was born near Rushville, Fairfield County, Ohio, January 3, 1862, and is a son of William J. and Nancy E. (Palmer) Barker.

William J. Barker was born in Perry County, Ohio, in 1831, and died in Franklin township, Mercer County, August 31, 1905. His wife was born in 1832, and is now residing on the home place. In 1863 they moved from Fairfield to Mercer County.

Orlington Barker was reared and educated in Franklin township and attended the district schools. In 1884 he bought 40 acres of farm land in Butler township, which he farmed while living at home. In 1891 he erected a large frame house, and three years later added a large barn to the many other improvements. In 1894 he purchased 40 acres more farm land, across the road from his original purchase of 40 acres, and in 1901 added another 40 acres adjoining his second purchase, making, in all, 120 acres of valuable farm land. Mr. Barker engages in farming and stock-raising and takes a great deal of pride in his fine stock. He owns some pedigreed Shorthorn cattle, high-grade Percheron horses and Cotswold sheep, his collection being as fine as any produced in the county.

On October 8, 1890, Mr. Barker was married to Lavergnie Walmire, a daughter of Joseph Walmire, both of Perry County, Ohio. They have two children: Joseph Walmire and Elsie Leah. Mr. Barker has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church since 15 years of age, is a trustee of the church and for the past 15 years has been a steward. In politics he is a Democrat.

GEORGE W. BECHER

George W. Becher, a well-known and successful agriculturist of Liberty township, residing on his well-improved farm of 90 acres, situated in section 7, was born in this township February 29, 1868, and is a son of

John and Anna Maria (Baker) Becher, the former a native of Germany, and the latter of Pennsylvania.

John Becher was a boy when he accompanied his parents to America, his father, Frederick Becher, locating in Black Creek township, Mercer County, Ohio, among the pioneers. After his marriage, John Becher settled in Liberty township and was a prosperous farmer and substantial citizen here for many years. His death occurred on July 25, 1883. The mother of our subject survives and is in her 70th year.

George W. Becher was educated in the schools of Liberty township and until his marriage resided on the homestead farm. He has always followed an agricultural life. His farm is a valuable one from every point of view. For the past three years the Darby Oil Company has been developing both oil and gas on his property and has sunk 11 wells, with quite a large degree of success.

Mr. Becher was married to Mary Schlenker, a daughter of the late John Schlenker, formerly a resident of Celina, and earlier, of Liberty township. Mr. and Mrs. Becher have five children, namely: Mabel L., William J., Clarence E., Otis L. and Edith L. Politically Mr. Becher is a Democrat. He belongs to the Lutheran Church.

NELSON MAFFETT

Nelson Maffett, residing on his 145-acre farm in Jefferson township, in section 4, township 6 south, range 2 east, was born in Carroll County, Ohio, January 2, 1844, and is a son of Joseph and Mary (Cheetham) Maffett.

The father of Nelson Maffett was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, and was a son of William Maffett, who was a native of Loudoun County, Virginia. William Maffett married Catherine Lodge and they owned slaves and a large plantation, which they sold when they moved to Columbiana County, Ohio. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812, and was a man of some prominence in his locality. He died in 1865, aged 96 years, his sturdy strength having come from Scotch ancestors.

When Joseph Maffett was six years old he was taken by his parents to Carroll County, Ohio, where he later married Mary Cheetham, who was a daughter of John and Jane (Brown) Cheetham, substantial farmers, who were natives of Manchester, England. Mr. and Mrs. Cheetham both died in Carroll County. Mrs. Maffett was seven years old when she accompanied her parents to America.

Nelson Maffett was reared on his father's farm in Carroll County until

HON. FRANKLIN S. COLLINS

the age of 12 years, when the family removed to Wyandot County, where his parents died, the father in 1880 and the mother in 1885. Mr. Maffett lived in Wyandot County until the fall of 1884, when he sold his farm of 40 acres and bought a farm of 105 acres in Jefferson township, Mercer County, mainly timberland. This land he has cleared and developed and has continued to improve, building here a large, comfortable frame house and substantial barn. He pays intelligent attention to the raising of Black Polled Angus cattle and Percheron horses. Mr. Maffett's property would command a high price in the market and its value is mainly due to what he has accomplished by his persevering industry and excellent methods.

On October 6, 1874, Mr. Maffett was married to Julia Landon, a daughter of James and Ruth Landon, of Ada, Ohio. Mrs. Maffett is a direct descendant of the ill-fated Lady Jane Grey, of English history, and her mother came from the noble old family of Dudley.

Mr. and Mrs. Maffett have four children, namely: Alberta, who married Newton Petrie, lives in Jefferson township and has two children, Harry and Gladys; Elmer Joseph, residing at home; Mary, who married William Preston Finley, lives in Jefferson township and has three children—Ruth, Irma and Berle; and Addie, who lives at home. Our subject and children, through his great-grandfathers, are eligible to the societies of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, both of these worthies having fought under General Washington.

Mr. Maffett does not take any very active interest in politics, but he is always concerned in the progress and development of his community. He is serving as a member of the township Board of Education and is one of the reliable, honorable citizens who reflect credit upon any neighborhood.

HON. FRANKLIN S. COLLINS

Hon. Franklin S. Collins, one of the leading citizens of Mercer County, conducting an extensive oil business at Celina, whose portrait accompanies this sketch, was formerly probate judge of the county and for a period was mayor of Celina, as well as mayor of Mendon for two terms. He was born at Shane's Crossing (now Rockford), Mercer County, November 23, 1852, and is a son of Jacob and Adeline V. (Davis) Collins.

The Collins family is an old pioneer one of Mercer County, the grandfather, Moses Collins, having settled here at a very early date. Jacob Collins, father of Franklin S. Collins, was born in Miami County, Ohio, in May, 1832, and was married in Mercer County. The mother of our subject was born in

Green County, Ohio, August 6, 1832, and was reared by an uncle in Mercer County. Our subject was 18 months old when his father died, leaving a widow and two children, Franklin S. and Emma, the latter now the wife of Dr. W. W. Small, of Toledo, Ohio. Some years after her husband's death, Mrs. Jacob Collins married H. F. Holbrook.

When Franklin S. Collins was about 15 years old, his mother left Shane's Crossing and removed with her children to Ashland County, where she settled on a farm. She gave her son every possible educational advantage that she could, which included one year at Baldwin University, Berea, Ohio. Upon his return home, he became a clerk in his uncle's mercantile establishment at Mendon, and after two years of commercial training he purchased the business and carried it on for some five years. After disposing of it, he farmed for some three years in the vicinity of Mendon and then returned to town and embarked in a hardware and grocery business there. In 1889 he sold out and went back to the farm, where he continued to follow agricultural pursuits until the fall of 1893 when he came to Celina. He has served as mayor of this city and for three years was deputy United States marshal under United States Marshal Updegraff.

During his residence at Mendon he was one of the leading business and public men. He was a member of the first Council of the village and served two terms as mayor, subsequently one term as trustee of Union township, and one term as assessor, these offices coming to him through the Republican party. In the meantime he had somewhat changed his political views and when he was elected justice of the peace, it was on the Populist ticket. On the same ticket he was nominated by the Populists, in 1893, as probate judge, and in his candidacy he was endorsed by the Republicans and the Independent Democrats. His personal popularity had much to do with the successful result, as he had to overcome a Democratic majority of 2,200 votes, which he did by 352 votes. He served three years as probate judge and during this period proved himself an efficient public officer. His administration reflected credit upon him and his constituents. Since returning to private life, he has been engaged in a coal business at Celina, also dealing in plaster, cement, lime and stone. He is also extensively interested in the production of oil.

In 1873 Franklin S. Collins was married to Elvira Murlin, who was born in Auglaize County, Ohio. They have six children, as follows: Maud L., art teacher in the Celina schools; Orel, wife of Dr. E. F. Heffner, of Wapakoneta, Ohio; James Plaine, a dentist; Adna D.; Cyrus A. and Ray. The family home is situated on East Livingston street, Celina.

Mr. Collins is a Mason and a Knight of Pythias, and belongs also to the Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association, the Grange and to social organizations

of Celina. He has always been a most active citizen and all matters of moment to the village receive his attention and he can be depended upon to give support to undertakings which promise to benefit the community.

MRS. SARAH ANN BEAUCHAMP

Mrs. Sarah Ann Beauchamp, widow of the late Martin Luther Beauchamp, who was a prominent agriculturist of Franklin township, is a lady who is well known and highly esteemed throughout Franklin township. She resides on her fine farm of 190 acres, which is situated in section 31. Mrs. Beauchamp was born in Mercer County, Ohio, February 25, 1839, and is a daughter of John J. and Elizabeth (Peck) Johnston.

The grandparents of Mrs. Beauchamp were Stephen and Anna (Armstrong) Johnston, who came to America from Ireland when their son John was five years of age. They settled first in New Brunswick whence they subsequently removed to Ohio and located in Shelby County, finally removing to Franklin township, Mercer County. They had these children: Sarah, who married John Wilson—both now deceased; Ann, deceased, who was the wife of John Alexander; Jane, deceased, who was the wife of John McGee; Christopher, deceased, whose wife was Mary Peck; Stephen, who married Susanna Pence and resides in Shelby County; and John J., the father of Mrs. Beauchamp.

It was in Shelby County, Ohio, that John J. Johnston married Elizabeth Peck. Afterwards they became pioneer residents of Mercer County. They had eight children, namely: Sarah Ann, the subject of this sketch; Samuel P., a resident of Shelby County, who married Martha Campbell; Barbara, who married Finley Wilson, and lives in Shelby County; Jennie, residing in Shelby County, who is the widow of James Weymer, who died June 30, 1906; Mary, who married Joseph A. Wilson and lives in Miami County; Stephen T., who married Ella Davis and lives at Piqua, Ohio; Martha, wife of Reuben G. Singles, a grocer at Piqua, Ohio; and Emma, who married Charles A. Hetzler and lives at Sidney, Ohio. Samuel P. Johnston served as a 100-day soldier in the Civil War. The father of Mrs. Beauchamp died aged 81 years and the mother, aged 84 years.

Mrs. Beauchamp was reared in Mercer County and was educated in the district schools. On March 4, 1858, she was united in marriage with Martin Luther Beauchamp, who was born in Delaware County, Ohio, and after a long and useful life died January 29, 1878.

Martin Luther Beauchamp was a son of Wesley and Jane (Davis) Beauchamp, and a grandson of William Beauchamp, who was one of the

founders of Montezuma and was known as "Dr. Beauchamp." William Beauchamp was of French extraction but was born in North Carolina. Later he left Montezuma and went to live with his daughter near Columbus. Of his large family, the names preserved are as follows: Mrs. Levina Thomas; Mrs. Ann Vickers; Sarah, who married Frank Miller; Mrs. Emily Lacey; Willis; Asa; Noah; Wesley, and William. Wesley Beauchamp married Jane Davis in Delaware County and later moved to Franklin township, Mercer County. Of their children, Martin Luther was the third eldest, the others being as follows: William, Monroe, Isabel, Catherine, Cordelia and Calista.

Martin Luther Beauchamp was a farmer all his life and was well and favorably known throughout Mercer County. A part of the farm came to Mrs. Beauchamp from her father and the remainder of it was purchased by her husband. It is a valuable property—190 acres all in one tract. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Beauchamp, as follows: Laura, who died in girlhood; John, who married Nevada Bennett and has five children—Rae, Reed, Ross, Ralph and Worth; Wesley W., a graduate of Starling Medical College, at Columbus, who married Hattie White and is a practicing physician at Rockford; Elizabeth, who married Gordon Botkin, resides at St. Marys and has one child, Lowell; Hortense, who died in 1900, aged 28 years; Herbert K., a graduate of the Indiana Medical College at Indianapolis, who served as an interne in the Fort Wayne Hospital and is now practicing at Phoenix, Arizona—he married Maude Adams.

Mrs. Beauchamp is a member of the Disciples' Church at Montezuma. Her husband was also a member of the same church. The male members of the family are all Republicans.

Mrs. Beauchamp still resides in the beautiful old home where she has lived since her marriage. She has witnessed many changes in the neighborhood in all these years and many of her old friends have passed away, but health and vigor remain with her and she finds much enjoyment as the center of an affectionate family of children and grandchildren.

JOHN BOHMANN

John Bohmann, whose fine farm of 92 acres, situated in section 31, Marion township, attracts attention on account of its excellent improvements and good cultivation, has been a resident here for the past 17 years. Mr. Bohmann was born in Franklin County, Indiana, September 29, 1856, and is a son of Joseph and Bernardina (Kessens) Bohmann.

In 1848 Gerhard Bohmann, a Prussian by birth, left his home in Oldenburg, Germany, with his two motherless children, Joseph and Henry, and

crossed the great ocean to America. They had little means and these were exhausted by the time they reached Wheeling, (West) Virgina, but Mr. Bohmann found employment there in a glass factory, and they remained there three years. It was the father's desire, however, to establish a home in the country and secure farming land, and as soon as he was able he turned his steps in the direction of the fertile lands he had heard of in Indiana. By steamboat the father and sons reached Cincinnati and there the boys went to school for a year. By that time the father had secured a farm in Franklin County, Indiana, near Oldenburg. This farm was in the midst of a green forest and it took hard work and the united efforts of Mr. Bohmann and his sons to clear up a farm. On this farm the father died in 1874, when 74 years of age. He had prospered and in recognition of his sons' early services he bought each of them a farm. In Indiana he married for his third wife, Mary Teesing, who still survives at the age of 94 years. One son, Frederick, was born to his second marriage, but no children were born to his third marriage.

Joseph Bohmann, the eldest son of Gerhard Bohmann, was eight years old when he accompanied his father to America. He lived in Indiana from the time they located there until his death, in July, 1901. He was married (first), in Indiana, to Bernardina Kessens, who died when Joseph was three years old. The latter is the only survivor of the three children of this marriage, his brothers Theodore and Herman dying when children. The father married (second) Elizabeth Hannakamp, and to this union were born five children, as follows: Mary, who married John Wanstrath and lives in Decatur County, Indiana; George, who married Elizabeth Wendeln and lives in Granville township; Catherine, who married Henry Wendeln and lives in Shelby County, Ohio; Theodore, who married Anna Hoyng and lives in Decatur County, Indiana; and Anthony, also married, who is a resident of Indianapolis. The mother of these children died in January, 1903, and the father died in 1898.

Joseph Bohmann remained on the home farm until he was 20 years of age, when he left Indiana, thinking to better his prospects in Ohio, and located in Auglaize County, where he engaged with a farmer, Benjamin Melcher, for whom he worked for three years. After his marriage, in 1881, he rented the farm on which he was working and remained operating it for some eight years. In 1888, in partnership with Henry Wendeln, his brother-in-law, he purchased the sawmill then owned by Frank Stineman, and the partners conducted a very successful business for over seven years. During this period Mr. Bohmann did all the contracting and buying for the firm. In July, 1895, he withdrew from the business and again turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, having, in the meantime, purchased his present farm from Charles Stineman. It was not a very attractive appearing place when he set-

tled on it, being covered with unsightly, old stumps which gave to it a very desolate air. Mr. Bohmann possessed foresight enough, however, to see how to turn the stumps to good account and they provided the fuel for many a roaring winter fire; the mellow soil from which they were removed proved the most fertile spots in his whole domain. It took many years to convert the place into the orderly, well-cultivated farm that now renders an ample return for all the time, labor and expense devoted to its improvement, but a very valuable body of land has resulted. Mr. Bohmann carries on farming and stock-raising. He has a comfortable, seven-room, frame dwelling, fitted with all those conveniences which make for ease and happy living, while his substantial barns and other farm buildings indicate a productive harvest.

On November 21, 1881, Mr. Bohmann was married (first) to Mary Wendeln, who died in September, 1895, and who was a daughter of Frederick Wendeln. To this union six children were born, four on the farm first occupied and two on the present farm. They are as follows: Frederick, who married Mary Synck and has one child, Hedwick; Anna, who married Andrew Schwietermann and has one child, Mary; and William, Rose, George and Joseph, all of whom live at home.

In October, 1896, Mr. Bohmann was married (second) to Catherine Synck, a daughter of Henry and Catherine Synck, who live at Cranberry Prairie. Mrs. Bohmann was born in Mercer County, but her parents came from Germany. Five children have been born to this marriage, as follows: Henry, Eleanor, Edward, John and Millie. Mrs. Bohmann was born on April 24, 1878, being the elder of her parents' two children. Her sister Mary married Frederick Bohmann, the eldest son of our subject. Mr. Bohmann and family are valued members of St. John's Catholic Church. In politics he is a Democrat.

OTTO RENTZSCH, JR.

Otto Rentzsch, Jr., one of Celina's prominent young business men and leading dry goods merchants, was born in Charleston, West Virginia, in 1877, and is a son of Otto Rentzsch, Sr., who for many years was one of Celina's influential business men.

Otto Rentzsch, Jr., spent his boyhood days in Ohio and Indiana, finally locating in Celina, on March 25, 1899. Here he engaged in the dry goods business with his father, under the firm name of Otto Rentzsch & Son, until April 1, 1906, when the senior partner retired from the business, having been actively engaged in business for nearly half a century. Otto Rentzsch, Sr., is now a resident of New Castle, Indiana, where he is engaged in looking after his real estate interests. Since his father's withdrawal from the busi-

ness, our subject has been sole proprietor of the business, and is considered one of Celina's most prosperous and energetic young business men.

Mr. Rentzsch was married in 1902 to Katherine Baumgardner, a daughter of Rev. Stewart Baumgardner, who was pastor of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church in 1899-1900. Fraternally, Mr. Rentzsch is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Celina.

JOHN WILLIAM RIDENOUR, M. D.

John William Ridenour, M. D., who is practicing medicine at Mendon, was born March 20, 1868, in Milford township, Defiance County, Ohio, and is a son of Augustus L. and Elizabeth (Stahl) Ridenour.

The paternal grandparents of Dr. Ridenour were John and Susanna (Hilbert) Ridenour, the former of whom was born February 14, 1807, and the latter in October, 1811, in Jefferson County, Ohio. Later they moved to Wayne County, and in 1844 to Defiance County, where John Ridenour purchased a farm and lived upon it until his death, in 1860. His widow survived until 1898, dying in her 87th year. They had nine children, namely: Alfred, who died in 1899; Augustus L.; Rebecca, who married Jacob Lane and resides at Williams Center, four miles from Bryan, Ohio; Loman, who is a farmer in Defiance County; Martha, who married Aaron Sellers and resides on a farm in Defiance County; David and Daniel, both farmers in Defiance County; and two that died in infancy.

Augustus L. Ridenour, father of the Doctor, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, and was three years old when his parents removed to Defiance County. His birth took place on July 3, 1841, in Canaan township, near Canaan Center, some eight miles from Wooster, but his life has been spent in Defiance County. On November 29, 1864, he married Elizabeth Stahl, who was born July 3, 1840, near Jewett, Harrison County, Ohio, and is a daughter of William Stahl. The other members of her father's family were: Sarah, deceased; Maria, wife of James Shambaugh, of Harrison County; and James, formerly of Harrison County, but now a resident of Hicksville, Defiance County. Augustus L. Ridenour and wife had four children, namely: Loma, wife of Walter Battershell, of Defiance County; John William; Anna, at home; and Charles, who married Stella McCullough and is the home farmer.

Until he was 16 years of age, John W. Ridenour attended the district schools, then spent one term in the township schools, after which he entered the normal school at Fayette, Ohio. He spent the succeeding two years teaching district schools and during this time completed a business course at Fayette, and in the fall of 1888 he taught a private school at Greensburg,

Pennsylvania. In 1889 he returned to Middlepoint, where he attended school and at the same time taught some of the classes and thus prepared himself for Thiel College, where he was graduated in the class of 1894. In the fall of 1896 he entered the Eclectic Medical Institute at Cincinnati and was graduated in the class of 1899. Dr. Ridenour settled first at Edgerton, removing one year later to Hicksville, where he continued in active practice until the spring of 1906, when he came to Mendon. In 1901 he received the degree of A. M. from Thiel College.

On June 20, 1894, Dr. Ridenour was married to Sarah Almeda Avery, a daughter of John and Salome (Foster) Avery. Mrs. Ridenour was born and reared at Middlepoint, Van Wert County. They have one daughter, Florence Gulia.

Dr. Ridenour is associated with a number of medical organizations. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias, and was a charter member of the lodge at Middlepoint, and of the National Protective Legion at Hicksville.

J. H. WINDKER

J. H. Windker, one of the representative men and prominent farmers of Butler township, who resides on his finely-improved farm of 211 40-100 acres, which is situated in section 31, was born September 2, 1838, in Germany. His parents were John Henry and Elizabeth Windker.

The parents of Mr. Windker were born, reared and married in Germany and emigrated to the United States when he was about 10 years of age. They left their country in September, 1848, and landed from the sailing vessel, at New Orleans, in the middle of December. They came north to Cincinnati, which they reached just after Christmas, where the father found work as a laborer, although he had been sick on the voyage and continued in poor health for some time. Three of his children, Herman, Bernard and Catherine, died in December, and in January, 1849, his wife died. In 1849 Cincinnati passed through the great cholera epidemic and both John Henry Windker and his son, J. H., contracted the disease, but both survived. Mr. Windker remembers that he was not able to walk down stairs until the 4th of the following July. During the four years that his father remained in Cincinnati, J. H. spent nine months of the time with an uncle in Tennessee, but the death of this relative caused his return to his father at Cincinnati. In 1853 John Henry Windker came to Mercer County and bought 40 acres of land two miles east of the present home, in Butler township, and in the '70's he came to this farm in section 31. Here the father of J. H. Windker died, February 22,

1893. He was an honest, industrious and worthy man, who was respected by all who knew him.

On April 18, 1861, Mr. Windker was married to Gertrude Lennartz, who is a daughter of John Henry and Catherine Lennartz. Mrs. Windker was born in Germany and came to America in 1848, landing at New York. Her parents lived for a time at Cincinnati and came to Mercer County in 1849. Mr. and Mrs. Windker have had eight children, namely: Elizabeth, who is the wife of Barney Dues, a prominent farmer; Catherine, who is the wife of John Vagedes; Henry; Mary, residing at Celina; Anna, who is the wife of Frank Strietholdt; Gertrude, who died aged 34 years; Pauline, who married William Dues and died at the age of 23 years, leaving one child, William; and Herman, who died aged three years.

After marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Windker lived for several years on the old home place. In 1875 he moved to his present farm which he has greatly improved, where he carries on general farming and stock-raising. He served as township trustee for many years, was a member of the School Board for nine years and for several years its president, and has been district clerk. He is one of the leading members of St. Mary's Catholic Church at Philothea, in which he served for many years as church clerk and treasurer.

BERNARD BIRKMEYER

Bernard Birkmeyer, a representative farmer of Butler township, who owns a fine farm of 90 acres, situated in section 22, was born at St. Johns, Marion township, Mercer County, Ohio, on July 1, 1868, and is a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Hausfield) Birkmeyer.

John Birkmeyer, the grandfather of Bernard Birkmeyer, was born in Germany and emigrated with his family to America, settling in Huron County, Ohio, where he died in 1846. After his death his widow removed with her children to Mercer County, and died in the house now occupied by her grandson, Bernard. Joseph Birkmeyer was born at St. Alphonse, Huron County, and was 12 years of age when his father died. In 1871 he removed from Marion to Butler township, Mercer County, settling on land but partly improved but which he developed through his industry, into a fine farm. He married Elizabeth Hausfield and they had 10 children, the survivors being: Clemens, Bernard and Henry. The mother died here June 11, 1902, and was survived by the father until July 10, 1904. The latter left an ample fortune, and a part of it is represented in the present excellent farm of our subject, and the substantial brick residence which was built in 1878.

Bernard Birkmeyer was reared in Butler township and attended the country schools. When about 23 years of age he started to learn the wagon-making trade with Frank Martz at Coldwater, and after serving an apprenticeship of three years worked for some six years at this trade, gaining the reputation of being a first-class machinist. Since then he has devoted his attention to general farming and stock-raising.

On November 3, 1897, Mr. Birkmeyer was married to Louisa Desch, a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Desch, and a granddaughter of John Desch, who was an early German settler in Mercer County. The parents of Mrs. Birkmeyer now reside at Dayton. The brothers and sisters of Mrs. Desch were: Louisa, Frances, Bertha, Matilda, Rosa, Edward, Clarence, Albert and Robert, the two last named being deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Birkmeyer have three children, namely: Eleonora, Joseph Lawrence and Clemens Edward. The family belong to Holy Trinity Catholic Church at Coldwater, in which Mr. Birkmeyer is one of the wardens. He belongs to the Knights of St. John.

GEORGE GARMAN

George Garman, a well-known citizen and prosperous farmer of Jefferson township, owns a 105-acre farm of valuable land, 65 of which, where the home is located, is in section 2, township 6 south, and 40 in section 32, township 5 south, both in range 2 east. He was born in Hopewell township, Mercer County, Ohio, July 24, 1857, and is a son of Rolandus and Lena (Myers) Garman.

Frederick Garman, the paternal grandfather, was born in Germany, emigrated to America, settled first in Pennsylvania, and later came to Mercer County, where he was a very early settler. He entered 240 acres from the government, which he developed into fine farming land. Grandfather Myers also came from Germany and became the owner of 140 acres of land in Hopewell township, Mercer County. Rolandus Garman, father of George, was born in Pennsylvania, but his wife was of German birth. Of their children, two sons and one daughter survive, viz.: Stephen, who is a farmer of Hopewell township; Rebecca, who is the wife of James Monroe, of Jefferson township; and George.

George Garman resided in Hopewell township until he was 18 years of age. He lost his mother when but eight years old and his stepmother was killed in a cyclone in Jefferson township, on May 14, 1886. His father, who still survives and is in his 80th year, resides in Jefferson township, where he purchased land in 1875. With the exception of two years, during which he

conducted a grocery at Celina, Mr. Garman has been a farmer all his life and has resided on his present farm ever since his marriage. He carries on general farming and raises some very good stock.

On March 1, 1878, Mr. Garman was married to Sarah Lincoln, a daughter of Alfred Lincoln, who died during the Civil War. They have four children, viz.: Alfred Leroy, a bookkeeper at Warren, Indiana, who married Vista Marsch; William E.; Stephen; and Ethel Zenobia.

Mr. Garman is an enterprising citizen of Jefferson township and takes an active interest in the public schools and in the improvement of agricultural conditions throughout this section.

ANTON STREACKER

Anton Streacker, one of the substantial farmers of Butler township, residing on a farm of 80 acres located in section 34, was born in Shelby County, Ohio, near Egypt, Auglaize County, May 19, 1872, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Brandvine) Streacker.

Henry Streacker, who is a native of Germany, came to America with his father, Gerke Streacker, when four years old. The latter settled in Auglaize County, where Henry was reared. Henry was married at the Streacker home place, where he lived for 50 years and reared nine children, six of whom are living. He now resides at Berlin, Shelby County.

Anton Streacker was reared in Shelby County, where he continued to live until March 6, 1906, when he moved to his present farm, which he had purchased December 23, 1905, of Henry Hoyng. He has made a great many changes on the place, an important one being the erection of a large barn and other necessary outbuildings in 1906. In the spring of 1896 Mr. Streacker was married to Sophia Zacaarias, a daughter of Christian Zacaarias, and they have five children: Martha, Annie, Bernard, Bertha and Leonard. Mr. Streacker is a member of the Catholic Church.

FRANK C. STARK

Frank C. Stark, one of Celina's active and enterprising business men, leading in the line of gentlemen's furnishings, was born in Celina in 1874 and is a son of John Stark.

John Stark was born in Germany, but was a citizen of Ohio for many years and during a large number of these was engaged in business at Celina, where he died in 1884, respected by all who knew him.

Frank C. Stark attended school until he was 13 years old and then became a clerk for H. F. Juneman & Company, dealers in gentlemen's furnishings. He learned the business pretty thoroughly before entering the employ of Betz & Meyer, at Celina, with whom he remained for a little over 10 years. In 1900 the firm of Dysert, Howick & Stark was formed, which continued for three and a half years, when Dysert & Stark succeeded and this style continued until June, 1905, when Mr. Stark bought out Mr. Dysert's interest and since then the business has been conducted under the firm name of Frank C. Stark.

In 1904 Mr. Stark was married to Julia Rentzsch, who is a daughter of Otto Rentzsch, Sr., who was a well-known merchant of Celina, now residing at New Castle, Indiana. Mr. Stark is a member of the Catholic Church. He belongs to St. Joseph's Society and to the German Independent Aid Society. Mr. Stark stands very high in the estimation of his fellow-citizens, both as a business man and as a citizen.

JAMES L. MORROW

James L. Morrow, justice of the peace and prominent citizen of Hopewell township, owns two fine farms in this township which aggregate 200 acres of land. He was born February 22, 1858, in Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of William and Mary (Wilson) Morrow.

William Morrow and wife were both born in Ohio; the former still survives but the latter died in 1901. William Morrow came from Perry County, Ohio, to Mercer County and settled about 1841 in Hopewell township, where he has spent his life and is now one of the most highly respected citizens. For a number of years he served as a justice of the peace, was also township assessor and township treasurer and is probably as well known as any man in the township. He has always supported the Democratic party. Of his children, the six survivors are: Jennie, widow of the late Dr. A. J. Lininger, of Celina; John Henry, of Hopewell township; James L., of this sketch; Louisa, wife of Jacob M. Weaver, of Hopewell township; George W., of Celina; and Thomas C.

James L. Morrow was reared in Hopewell township where he obtained his primary education. Later he attended the normal school at Valparaiso, Indiana, and subsequently became a teacher. For 14 consecutive years he taught winter schools in his township. In the spring of 1892 he removed to Celina, where he embarked in a mercantile business which he continued until 1898, returning then to Hopewell township and settling on the farm he now occupies, which is located in section 14.

Mr. Morrow was united in marriage with Dellie Weaver, a daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Weaver, the latter of whom is deceased. Mr. Weaver still survives, in his 80th year, and is one of the most venerable and highly respected citizens of his neighborhood. Of the eight children born to our subject and wife, the seven survivors are: Daisy, Minnie, Maud, Russell, Dillon, Marie and Glen. Letitia is deceased.

Mr. Morrow is now serving in his second term as justice of the peace, having given satisfaction to all concerned in his first term. Politically he is a Democrat, like his father, and has always taken an active part in campaign work. He is a member and one of the board of trustees of the United Brethren Church. Mr. Morrow is a very busy man, having business interests of various kinds, at Celina in particular. He is interested in the marble works in that city and he is also secretary of the Mercer County Mutual Telephone Company.

W. A. J. McDANIEL

W. A. J. McDaniel, who is at the head of a large furniture and undertaking establishment at Celina, established here in 1884, was born in Lima, Ohio, in 1861 and is a son of M. McDaniel, who was engaged in the furniture and undertaking business practically all his life. M. McDaniel died in 1901.

The subject of this sketch lived in Troy, Ohio, until about seven years of age, his parents having moved there from Lima in his infancy. His parents afterward moved to Greenville, Ohio, where he was reared to manhood, learning his present business of his father, who had a furniture and undertaking establishment. After attaining his majority, he became a member of the firm of M. McDaniel & Son. In 1884 the firm moved to Celina and engaged in the same business and since 1885 it has been owned and under the charge of W. A. J. McDaniel. Mr. McDaniel was assisted in the undertaking department by Asa W. Meister until August, 1905, when the latter became a partner in the undertaking business. Our subject is an Odd Fellow and Knight of Pythias.

JOHN BEIERSDORFER

John Beiersdorfer, one of the progressive and enterprising business men of Celina, who has met with success in several lines of activity, was born in Auglaize County, Ohio, August 20, 1849, and was there reared and educated.

Mr. Beiersdorfer learned the carpenter's trade and worked at this in

Auglaize and Shelby counties until 1888, when he joined his brother Philip in the meat business at Celina; together they ran a butcher shop and also engaged in the buying and selling of live-stock. They continued in this business until 1903, when our subject opened a grocery store and carried that on for 18 months. Mr. Beiersdorfer has also been interested in brick manufacturing, in dealing in timber lands and in oil production. He has been instrumental in opening up some 22 oil-wells. He was also one of the promoters of the canning factory at this point, which has become such an important industry. In fact he has been one of the active, enthusiastic men needed in every community to open the eyes of the residents to the business opportunities within reach. He has served on the Village Council much to the advantage of the municipality and takes a lively interest in all public matters.

On October 3, 1873, Mr. Beiersdorfer was married to Mary Brueninger, of Shelby County, Ohio, and they have eight children, viz.: Cornelia, wife of A. J. Wolf, of Dayton, Ohio; Elizabeth, wife of John Beckman, a merchant at Celina; Charles, a jeweler at Atlanta, Georgia; Albert, who is employed on the Pacific Coast; Edwin B. and William B., of Dayton; and Paul and Ernest, at home.

Mr. Beiersdorfer is a member of the Catholic Church. He belongs to the Knights of Columbus and for the past 13 years has been president of the German Independent Aid Society, an important charitable organization of Celina.

PRESTON WILEY FISHBAUGH

Preston Wiley Fishbaugh, M. D., who is engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery at Mendon, was born on a farm in Washington township, near Erastus, Mercer County, Ohio, February 22, 1864, and is a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Morton) Fishbaugh.

The Fishbaugh family was established in Fairfield County, Ohio, by the grandfather of Dr. Fishbaugh, Mordecai Fishbaugh, who was a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and was a blacksmith by trade. He married a Miss McDonald and they reared a large family, many of whom still reside in Fairfield County.

Samuel Fishbaugh, father of Dr. Fishbaugh, was born in Fairfield County, in 1829, and located in Mercer County in 1863, purchasing 160 acres of land, which he still owns, although for the past 10 years he has been a resident of Bellefontaine, Logan County. In Fairfield County he married Elizabeth Morton, who died in 1878, aged 42 years. They had seven children, the three eldest born in Fairfield County, as follows: Emma, wife of Samuel Cormack, residing at Erastus; Anthony, an attorney and surveyor,

living at Celina; Laura, wife of Moore McMillan, of Xenia, Ohio; M. Byron, a graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Baltimore, formerly a medical practitioner at Coldwater and St. Henry, who is now practicing at Wabash; Francis Mahlon, a traveling salesman, residing at Toledo; Preston Wiley; and Ann Isabel, who was accidentally killed at the age of seven years.

Preston W. Fishbaugh attended the normal school at Portland, Indiana, for two years and then spent a year at the Ohio Normal University at Ada. The next five years he spent in the educational field in Mercer County, in the meantime reading medicine, and in 1890 he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Baltimore, from which he was graduated in the class of 1893. In the spring of that year he located at Mendon and here he has continued in the practice of his profession, building up a large and satisfactory practice by his skill and faithful attention to his patients.

Dr. Fishbaugh was married on August 25, 1894, to Ida May Schenck, a daughter of Rev. Daniel and Mary (Chillcote) Schenck, of Decatur, Indiana. They have four children, viz.: Paul Schenck, Anthony Wayne, Mary Belle and Grace Lenora.

Dr. Fishbaugh keeps closely in touch with the advance of professional thought and is a member of the Mercer County Medical Society and the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association.

EDWARD LANDFAIR

Edward Landfair, who for six years served the village of Celina as mayor, is one of Mercer County's prominent citizens. He was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1845, and was about six years old when his parents moved to Washington township, Mercer County, settling on a farm in the woods.

Edward remained at home, giving assistance to his father in clearing up the farm, until he was about 17 years of age, when he went back to Fairfield County and for a time engaged there in farm work. In the meantime he took advantage of every opportunity to secure an education and when about 20 years of age returned to Mercer County and for a time taught school during the winters and attended school as much as possible, during the summers. He thus became very well known and in 1870, when he came to Celina, he was invited to take charge of the village schools. During the four years that he remained at their head, they made great advances. He was too intelligent a man not to be interested also in public affairs and became something of a politician. In 1868 he was appointed a member of the County Board of School Examiners, a position he held for 17 consecutive years. In 1871 Mr.

Landfair was elected recorder of Mercer County and served in that position for six years. In 1881 he was elected clerk of the courts of Mercer County and assumed the duties of the office in 1882, which office he held for six years, being twice reelected. From 1899 until 1903 he was mayor of Celina. Since retiring from public life, Mr. Landfair has been in the loan and investment business.

In 1868 Mr. Landfair was married to Adarene Blake, who died in April, 1903, leaving one son, Robert B. The latter was educated in the schools at Celina and Lexington, then studied law, was graduated from the Cincinnati Law School and was admitted to the bar before the Supreme Court of Ohio at Columbus, all this before he had reached his majority. He is one of the successful young law practitioners at Celina.

HENRY FULLENKAMP

Henry Fullenkamp, one of the leading farmers and solid, substantial citizens of Marion township, who resides on a fine farm of 240 acres in section 2, and owns another tract of 40 acres, belongs to one of the old pioneer families of this section of the State. Henry Fullenkamp was born November 4, 1848, in Jackson township, Auglaize County, Ohio, on the farm on which his father had settled in the woods, and is a son of Nicholas and Mary Adaline (Vonderhar) Fullenkamp.

The Fullenkamp family is of German origin and it was established in America by the grandparents of Henry Fullenkamp, who crossed the Atlantic Ocean and penetrated into what was then a wilderness, settling in Jackson township, on the county line of Auglaize County, Ohio, where they died. The name of the grandfather was Herman Fullenkamp. They had three children, namely: Nicholas; Henry; and Elizabeth, who became the wife of Henry Bertke.

Nicholas Fullenkamp, who was 15 years of age when he accompanied his parents to Ohio, spent the remainder of his life in Auglaize County, where he died in 1891. He married Mary Adaline Vonderhar, who came to America with her cousin, from Hanover, Germany. She was born May 20, 1826, and still resides on the old farm. Nicholas Fullenkamp and wife had 10 children, as follows: Catherine, now deceased, who married (first) Clement Smith, and (second) Henry Bisick; Henry; Joseph, who married Mary Knapke; Mary, deceased, who was the wife of Jacob Brown; an infant, deceased; Barney, who married (first) Anna Brown, and (second) Mrs. Fisher; John, who married Mary Bruns; Nicholas, who married Mary Hausfeld and lives on the home

CAPT. SAMUEL A. NICKERSON

MRS. LUCINDA M. NICKERSON

farm; Anthony, who married Anna Westgardes; and Frank, who married Anna Bruns.

Henry Fullenkamp was reared in Jackson township, Auglaize County, on the home farm and had few educational advantages as the country was little settled. He remained at home, assisting in the clearing and developing of the farm until his marriage, when his father gave him 80 acres. To this he subsequently added 160 acres, which he bought from Peter Barnhard, and still later he acquired 40 more acres, which he bought from the Schrage estate. His land is under a fine state of cultivation, improved methods of farming being the rule and large returns are realized. The pleasant farm house is beautifully shaded from the heats of summer and protected from the winds of winter by a large orchard situated in front.

On August 21, 1873, Mr. Fullenkamp was married to Mary Hulskamp, who is a daughter of Dietrich and Elizabeth (Tangeman) Hulskamp. The parents of Mrs. Fullenkamp were both born in Germany, the mother being two years old when she was brought to America. Mr. and Mrs. Fullenkamp have six children, namely: Elizabeth, who married Frederick Voskuhl, resides in Recovery township and has had seven children—John, Frank, Vincent (deceased), Catherine, Mary, Joseph and Edward; Anna, who married Henry Dwenger, lives at St. Rosa and has two children—Elizabeth and Mary; Catherine, who married Henry Buddendick, lives at St. Peter and has two children —Anna and Mary; John H., born February 10, 1882; Bernard, born December 27, 1884; and Joseph, born April 8, 1886. The three sons work for their father on the home farm. They are fine specimens of young manhood. The family belong to the Catholic Church; the sons are members of St. Alosius' Society and the father, of St. Joseph's Society.

CAPT. SAMUEL A. NICKERSON

Capt. Samuel A. Nickerson, formerly county treasurer of Mercer County, and the well-known proprietor of "Lake View Farm," a body of 80 acres of excellent land in Jefferson township, situated in sections 4 and 5, township 6, range 3 east, is also a surviving officer of the great Civil War, in which he distinguished himself by gallant service. Captain Nickerson was born in Preble County, Ohio, April 17, 1834, and is a son of Joseph Colby and Anna (Everman) Nickerson.

The Nickerson family is of English extraction and its American founders came to Massachusetts Bay Colony as early as 1637. The old home seems to have been in the vicinity of Norwich, England, and from there came one

William Nickerson, who landed at Boston, June 20, 1637, after a stromy crossing of the Atlantic in a frail little sailing vessel of the time. Afterwards he bought land of the Indians in what is now Chatham, which forms the elbow of Cape Cod, and from that point noted for its fishing and ship building have spread the sturdy family of Nickersons of which our subject is a most worthy member.

From the coast of Massachusetts the Nickerson sons adventured north and a branch found a home in Maine and there Rev. Joshua Nickerson, the grandfather of Captain Nickerson, was born, as was also his son, Joseph Colby Nickerson. Rev. Joshua Nickerson served in the Revolutionary War under General Washington at Valley Forge.

About 1815 Joseph Colby Nickerson came to Ohio and settled near Eaton, in Preble County, where he entered 80 acres of land. He had already had a somewhat adventurous life, having served in his youth as a sailor and also worked along the coast as a ship carpenter. He had also served as a soldier in the War of 1812, under Generals Wilkinson and Harrison, and participated in the battles of Shady Four Corners and Stone Mill, along the Canadian border. After settling permanently in Preble County he worked as a carpenter and millwright and built the first mill and the first jail in that county. About 1837 or 1838 he brought his family to Mercer County, Ohio, our subject being then about three years old, and settled in Recovery township, where he entered land on the Wabash River at the point called the Second Crossing. In Preble County he married Anna Everman, a daughter of Samuel Everman. Her only brother, Philip Everman, was in General Hall's army at the surrender of Detroit.

At the little settlement of Second Crossing, Samuel A. Nickerson was reared and his education was secured in the neighboring district schools. He was a young man of 26 years of age when the call came for loyal soldiers to go out to defend the Nation's flag and he was one of the first to respond, entering Company I, 17th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and served as a private through the three months of his first enlistment, passing the most of this period at Camp Anderson, Lancaster, Ohio. He returned home only to volunteer under Captain Stone and went with his company to Lima, where he was appointed an orderly sergeant and was sent home to recruit. While engaged in this duty the regiment went on to Cincinnati, where Sergeant Nickerson later reported with his volunteers and the company was assigned to the 118th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf.

On the reorganization of the regiment, Sergeant Nickerson was promoted to 2nd lieutenant of Company I, receiving this commission on August 13, 1862. On February 1, 1864, he was promoted to 1st lieutenant of Company B, 118th Regt., Ohio Vol. Inf., and on October 12, 1864, he was made

captain of Company B. His honorable discharge was received April 15, 1865, at Mosely Hall, North Carolina, on account of ill health brought on by exposure and the vicissitudes of a soldier's life. During the siege of Atlanta he was very seriously injured, and on numerous occasions his life was in momentary jeopardy for hours at a time. Captain Nickerson's army record is that of as brave a soldier as ever wore the Union blue, his rapid promotion giving testimony to this fact. Among the many adventures in which he was prominently concerned, the complete routing of the Confederate raider Caldwell was a typical one and may be briefly related here. Extracts are made use of from a Celina publication many years after the events took place.

"The notorious Jim Caldwell of the Rebel army was in the habit of visiting every few weeks, a place known as Morris Mills, in the upper part of Campbell County, North Carolina, where he obtained recruits, horses, supplies, etc., a regular correspondence and communication being kept up with sympathizers in the border counties of Kentucky." As a result, Lieutenant Nickerson with 13 men was detailed to capture Caldwell and to break up his line of communication. In referring, years after, to this event, Captain Nickerson said: "After all these years, looking back over the many hard campaigns which we passed through during the war, I can think of none fraught with more danger or that produced better results according to the number engaged in it. We pursued, met and defeated a force twice our size and advanced so far into the enemy's country that our entire force could have been surrounded and cut to pieces. As to the fatigue we had endured, the first night out we had moved over 20 miles on foot, the greater portion of the time on the double quick. For two days and two nights we were almost continually in the saddle. As to the results, it not only drove Caldwell out of Kentucky, but put an end to the Rebels sending spies through our lines into Covington and Cincinnati to spy around General Burnside's headquarters. It also broke up their mail routes from Cincinnati into the Rebel lines, stopping the sending of supplies and recruits into Humphrey Marshall's army and it effectually quieted that part of Kentucky."

The capture of Caldwell was not accomplished, as he fled at the first approach of Lieutenant Nickerson's brave men, who, however, captured three other prisoners, two of whom were officers of the Confederate Army, viz.: the notorious Major McGraw and Capt. William Corbin, on whose persons were found contraband goods and letters to the enemy. Strange as it may seem, neither Lieutenant Nickerson nor his men ever received any special recognition from the government for one of the bravest raids ever made by that command and one which had far-reaching consequences.

After his retirement from the army, Captain Nickerson returned to Mercer County and settled down to farming. On June 13, 1877, he married

Lucinda Myers, a daughter of George and Eliza Myers, old residents of Mercer County. Mrs. Nickerson's great-grandfather, John Myers, was a Hessian soldier who fought in the Revolutionary War in the British Army, having been pressed into the service; at his earliest opportunity he deserted and afterwards settled in Hamilton County, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Nickerson have no children of their own, but they have reared George and Savella Myers, a nephew and niece, as a son and daughter.

For a number of years Captain Nickerson resided at Fort Recovery and while living there he carried on a livery business. He was also made justice of the peace and filled this office for 12 consecutive years to the satisfaction of all concerned. While residing at Fort Recovery, he also was engaged in a drug business and was one of the leading citizens of the village. Politically he is a stanch Democrat and it was on the Democratic ticket that he was elected treasurer of Mercer County, in which office he served for four years, proving a capable official, devoted to the interests of his fellow-citizens. After retiring from that office, he purchased his present farm near Celina, to which he gave the pleasant name of "Lake View," and here he is surrounded by all that is calculated to make the evening of life a compensation for all the hardships or disappointments which may have gone before. He is active in the Grand Army of the Republic and is president of the Mercer County Pioneer Association. Portraits of Captain and Mrs. Nickerson accompany this sketch.

PHILIP BEIERSDORFER

Philip Beiersdorfer, one of Celina's substantial men and leading business citizens, who has offices on West Livingston street, is identified with the grain and elevator interests, a large creamery enterprise and has long been a successful buyer and shipper of stock. Mr. Beiersdorfer was born March 31, 1853, in Auglaize County, Ohio, and was mainly reared and educated there.

Mr. Beiersdorfer learned the butchering business and was engaged in that several years prior to moving to Lima, where he continued in the same line for several years more. In 1879 he came to Celina and entered upon the same business, which he carried on continuously until 1906, when he retired; a portion of this time he was in partnership with his brother John. His markets were well known for the fine quality of their goods. He has, in the meantime, been interested in other successful enterprises, has a large grain and elevator business and was one of the early buyers and shippers of livestock in this locality. In partnership with John E. Hamburger and Julius Theiman, he has established a creamery with every prospect of doing an extensive business. He is also interested in a stave factory at Ada, Ohio. Mr.

Beiersdorfer is a very able business man and an enterprising, valuable citizen.

In 1882 Mr. Beiersdorfer was married to Sarah Ungerer, and they have three children, viz.: Leona, Frank and Hazel B. With his family he belongs to the Catholic Church. He is also an active member of the Knights of St. John, and is a member of the German Independent Aid Society.

WESLEY W. BEAUCHAMP

Wesley W. Beauchamp, M. D., a leading medical practitioner at Rockford, was born in Franklin township, Mercer County, Ohio, August 13, 1863, and is a son of Martin Luther and Sarah Ann (Johnston) Beauchamp.

The Beauchamp family was established in Mercer County by the grandfather of Dr. Beauchamp, who was a native of North Carolina. The family originated in France, fled to Scotland on account of political troubles and later crossed the ocean and made a home in North Carolina. Wesley Beauchamp, the grandfather, was one of the pioneer settlers at Montezuma, where he died in 1852. He acquired a large amount of land, his farm including a large part of the present site of St. Marys. Wesley Beauchamp had three sons and four daughters, namely: Monroe, William and Martin Luther, sons, and Cornelia, Isabel, Catherine and Calista, daughters. The sons have all passed away. Monroe died when about 21 years of age. William moved to Shelby County and later to Darke County, Ohio, where he died in 1905. Cornelia, deceased, was the wife of Isaac Selby. Isabel was married (first) to Salathiel Hale and later, to Morris Kelly, now deceased; she resides in Franklin township, Mercer County. Calista also resides in Franklin township, and is the widow of George Miller. The father of Dr. Beauchamp was born in 1830 and died January 29, 1878, at the age of 48 years.

The mother of our subject was born February 25, 1839, and was the eldest daughter of John J. and Elizabeth (Peck) Johnston, both of whom were natives of Enniskillen, Ireland. John J. Johnston accompanied his parents to New Brunswick in childhood, and later they came to Franklin township, Mercer County, as pioneer settlers. The great-grandmother of our subject died at the age of 90 years. John J. Johnston was about 21 years old when he came to Mercer County; he died in 1897 in Shelby County, aged 80 years. The children born to John J. and Elizabeth (Peck) Johnston were six daughters and two sons, all of whom survive, as follows: Sarah Ann, the mother of Dr. Beauchamp, who was born in Mercer County and is still a resident there; Jennie, residing in Shelby County, who is the widow of James Weymer, deceased June 30, 1906; Barbara, wife of Finley Wilson, residing in

Shelby County; Mary, wife of Joseph A. Wilson, residing in Miami County; Martha, wife of Reuben G. Singles, a grocer at Piqua, Ohio; Emma, wife of Charles A. Hetzler, of Sidney, Ohio; Samuel P., of Shelby County, who married Martha Campbell; and Stephen T., of Piqua, who married Ella Davis.

There were three sons and three daughters born to Martin Luther and Sarah Ann (Johnston) Beauchamp, as follows: Laura, who died in girlhood; John, who is a farmer, residing in Franklin township; Wesley W., of this sketch; Elizabeth, who is the wife of Gordon Botkin, of St. Marys; Hortense, who died in 1900, aged 28 years; and Herbert K., who is a practicing physician at Phoenix, Arizona—he is a graduate of the Indiana Medical College, at Indianapolis and formerly practiced at Keystone, Indiana.

Wesley W. Beauchamp received his literary training in the schools of Montezuma and Celina. In 1892 he entered Starling Medical College, at Columbus, where he was graduated in 1895. In April of the same year he entered upon the practice of his profession with Dr. A. Stephenson, at Fort Recovery. One year later, in April, 1896, he came to Rockford and was in partnership here for three and a half years, with Dr. Kirby. In April, 1905, he gave up practice on account of failing health and spent a year at Piqua, recuperating. In April, 1906, he returned to Rockford, where he has practiced ever since, meeting with satisfactory success. He is preparing to take up special work in diseases of the eye.

On July 4, 1895, Dr. Beauchamp was married to Hattie C. White, a daughter of Cornelius S. and Sarah E. (Brubaker) White. They had one child but it died in infancy.

Politically Dr. Beauchamp is a Republican. Fraternally he is a Mason and belongs to Shane's Lodge, No. 377, at Rockford. Personally he is a man of pleasant address and bears the marks of a student. As man and physician he is held in very high esteem in Rockford.

VALENTINE W. BREHM

Valentine W. Brehm, a well-known citizen and representative farmer and stock-raiser of Liberty township, residing on his valuable farm in section 16, was born January 11, 1861, in Montgomery County, Ohio. His parents were John and Mary (Lower) Brehm.

John Brehm, who is now a resident of Liberty township, was born in Germany. After coming to America, he resided for a time in Montgomery County, Ohio, but came to Mercer County in 1872. The mother of our subject died when he was a boy.

Valentine W. Brehm was reared on his father's farm until he reached

manhood, and was educated in the public schools. He has always devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits and is numbered with the successful farmers of Liberty township. He settled on his present farm in 1893, finding it little more than a timber tract then, but he has developed it into a very valuable farm.

Mr. Brehm was married on December 24, 1885, to Sophia Alt, a daughter of John Alt, a well-known resident of Liberty township. Mr. and Mrs. Brehm have two children, Philip J. and Annie L., both of whom have been educated in the local schools and reside at home.

Mr. Brehm is a stanch Democrat. He is a man who takes a great deal of interest in the public school system and has given his time to serve as school director of District No. 5. Both he and his good wife are members of the Lutheran Church.

E. J. BROOKHART

E. J. Brookhart, attorney-at-law at Celina and referee in bankruptcy for Mercer County, was born August 8, 1881, in Hopewell township, Mercer County, Ohio, some five miles north of Celina. He is a son of J. C. Brookhart.

The father of E. J. Brookhart was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, but has been a citizen of Mercer County for many years. He still occupies and operates his farm in Hopewell township.

E. J. Brookhart was reared on his father's farm and was mainly educated at Mendon, graduating from the Mendon High School before entering upon the study of the law. In 1903 he was graduated in law at the Ohio Northern University at Ada, and in March, 1904, he entered into practice, locating at Celina. In February, 1906, he was appointed United States referee in bankruptcy for Mercer County, the duties of which office he has efficiently filled ever since.

On December 25, 1902, Mr. Brookhart was married to Dora Montgomery, a daughter of Dr. West Montgomery, of Ada, Ohio, formerly of Mercer County. Mrs. Brookhart is a talented musician and has been the leader of the choir of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church ever since taking up her residence at Celina. Both she and Mr. Brookhart are very active in church circles, he being a member of the board of stewards and she, of various benevolent organizations connected with its philanthropic activities. Mr. Brookhart still retains his membership in his college fraternity society of Theta Nu Epsilon.

In politics Mr. Brookhart is a Republican. He takes a lively interest in

public matters and is one of the influential local managers, serving at present as chairman of the county executive committee.

JACOB HUWER

Jacob Huwer, one of Butler township's prosperous farmers, residing on a farm of 120 acres in section 29, was born at Cranberry Prairie, Mercer County, Ohio, September 10, 1857, and is a son of Jacob and Barbara (Kart) Huwer.

Jacob Huwer, Sr., owned a fine farm of 160 acres and always followed agricultural pursuits. He died April 25, 1906, and his wife died in 1874. They had seven children, as follows: Jacob; Mary, who married Peter Stachler, of Dayton, Ohio; Kate, who married Henry Wolfe; Annie, who married Charles Bier; John; William; and Fred, who died from the effects of a rattlesnake bite, when six years old.

Jacob Huwer, our subject, was reared on a farm at Cranberry Prairie, and after his marriage lived on a farm of 85 acres near this point, which he sold in April, 1903, and purchased his present place. He resides in a fine, large brick house.

Mr. Huwer was married on August 8, 1882, to Maggie Rindler, a daughter of Constantine Rindler, and they have had 13 children, as follows: Christine, deceased; Jacob, who married Dina Spoltman; John; William; Mary; Christine (2); Henry; Leo; Charles, who died aged three years and six months; Roman, who died aged seven weeks; Clara, who died in infancy; Raymond and Carl. Mr. Huwer is a member of the Catholic Church and also of St. Joseph's Society. In politics he is a Democrat.

JOHN TENNENT

John Tennent, a well-known contractor of Celina, where he has resided for the past 17 years, was born at Gettysburg, Darke County, Ohio, August 14, 1856. He was reared in his native town and was five years old when his father died. At an early age he was bound out on a farm where he remained until 21 years of age; thus his educational advantages were very limited. After leaving the farm, he learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed in connection with farming near Gettysburg. In 1889 he moved to Celina, where for the past 15 years he has been engaged in general contracting. Mr. Tennent has built 37 of the finest residences in Celina, seven of the village's business blocks, the Celina Free Public Library

and many minor buildings of the village. He was recently awarded the contract for erecting Celina's new public school building.

Mr. Tennent was married in 1886 to Lyda Martin, of Piqua, Ohio, and has seven children, namely: Maud Pearl, who married Otis Monroe of Montezuma, Ohio; F. C., who is in partnership with his father; H. C., of Greenville, Ohio; Jennie and Sallie (twins); Guy and Emma. Politically, Mr. Tennent is a Republican. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. lodge at Gettysburg and a member of the St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church at Celina.

BERNARD BORGER

Bernard Borger, a well-known resident of Celina, where he was engaged in business for a number of years, and a member of the Board of Infirmary Directors, was born October 27, 1854, in Granville township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Joseph and Katherine E. (Ronnebaum) Borger.

The father of Mr. Borger was born in Germany and came to America when 21 years of age, locating immediately in Cincinnati. He worked there until 1835 when he bought government land in Granville township, Mercer County, and walked the distance between Cincinnati and Wapakoneta, carrying his purchase money, $300 in silver, in a bag on his back. He lived to become one of the large landowners in Mercer County. He married Katherine E. Ronnebaum, who was also born in Germany, and they had seven children, one of whom died in infancy. Three are living at the present time: Bernard, of this sketch; Frederick, of St. Henry; and Mary, wife of Henry Dorger, a farmer in Granville township. Henry, Joseph and Frances died, leaving families. The father and mother lived to a good old age, the former dying March 17, 1887, aged 74 years, and the latter surviving the death of her husband but six days, being aged 72 years. They were most worthy people and were honored and beloved by those who knew them.

Bernard Borger was educated in Granville township and followed farming there until June 15, 1891, when he removed to Celina, where he ran a grocery store for one year, later was in a lumber business and then clerked in a hardware store for seven years. On January 1, 1901, he became a member of the Board of Infirmary Directors of Mercer County, and has been clerk of the board ever since. While residing in Granville township he served as trustee, and was always interested in the educational affairs of his neighborhood. Since retiring from business, he has given the larger part of his time to looking after his valuable real estate interests.

Mr. Borger was married October 20, 1885, to Mary A. Depweg, a

daughter of Barney Depweg, and they have one son, William J., who is a clerk in a wholesale and retail hardware store in Toledo.

Mr. Borger is a member of the Catholic Church. He belongs to the Knights of St. John, uniform rank, and is also a member of St. Joseph's Society. His residence is on West Logan street, Celina.

AUGUST FRAHM

August Frahm, a well-known farmer of Hopewell township, who resides on his excellent farm of 80 acres situated in section 7, was born September 29, 1856, in Hopewell township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of John H. and Sophia (Smith) Frahm.

John H. Frahm and wife were natives of Germany. They emigrated to America about 1852 and became early settlers in Hopewell township, Mercer County. John H. Frahm became a prominent citizen of the township and county, serving in the former as a trustee and in the latter as county commissioner for six years. He was a stanch Democrat in his political views and a worthy member of the Lutheran Church. He died in April, 1899.

August Frahm was reared with his brothers and sister on the home farm in Hopewell township, and they were all educated in the public schools, our subject enjoying also a short period of instruction in the Celina schools. He owns a good farm and the greater part of his time is given to its further improvement.

Mr. Frahm was united in marriage with Anna Copman, who was born in Germany, and they have three children, namely: Lizzie, Rudolph and Ricka.

Politically Mr. Frahm is a stanch Democrat. He has served as school director of District No. 4 at various times, and has proved a valuable member of the board. In 1900 he was made land appraiser in Hopewell township. He is a leading member of the Lutheran Church, in which he is a trustee and also a deacon. Like other members of his family, he is held in high esteem throughout Hopewell township.

JOSEPH McDONALD

Joseph McDonald, who resides on his valuable farm of 80 acres in Jefferson township, situated in section 2, township 6 south, range 2 east, was born in Darke County, Ohio, October 21, 1835, and is a son of John and

Maria (Baker) McDonald and a grandson of Joseph McDonald, a native of Scotland, who came to this country when quite young and settled in Miami County, Ohio.

John McDonald, father of Joseph, was reared in Darke County. He married Maria Baker, a daughter of Lewis Baker, a prominent farmer of Darke County, who had been a soldier in the Indian Wars.

Joseph McDonald was reared and educated in his native county and in 1851 accompanied his parents to Mercer County. They located in Jefferson township, in which township he has ever since resided. He has lived on his present farm for 47 years, having taken possession shortly after his marriage.

On September 10, 1869, he was married to Lydia Smith, who was born at Celina, Ohio, and is a daughter of Matthias and Elizabeth (Molder) Smith, both of whom were natives of Germany, but were married in Mansfield, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. McDonald have had 10 children, six of whom are still living, namely: Hettie, who lives at home; Lizzie, who married Ward Raudabaugh, resides at South Lebanon, Ohio, and has one child, Mabel Margaret; Arthur, who lives at home; Lucy, who lives at home; Grace; and Mabel. Grace received her early education in the country schools, then graduated from the Celina High School and has since taken a course in the Ohio State University at Columbus, graduating in the class of 1906. Prior to entering the Ohio State University, she taught school in the country for one year, and is now teaching at Nelsonville, Ohio. Mabel graduated from the Celina High School in 1906.

JOSEPH PAX

Joseph Pax, one of Mercer County's progressive farmers, residing on a well-improved tract of 120 acres in Jefferson township, situated in section 11, township 6 south, range 2 east, was born in Germany, November 11, 1861, and is a son of John and Josephine (Ast) Pax.

John Pax and family came to America when Joseph was five years old and located in Franklin County, Indiana. There were six children in the parental family, as follows: Joseph; John; George; Mary, deceased; Mrs. Lena Hartman; and Anna, who is the wife of Pius Pfister. Prior to his death, in 1896, John Pax sold his farm and went to live with his son Joseph.

Joseph Pax was reared and educated in Franklin County, Indiana. After his marriage he moved to Cincinnati and spent the following 10 years in Hamilton County. He then purchased a farm in Jefferson township, Mercer County, where he has since resided. He has made many improvements

on the farm since he came here, one being the building of a 10-room frame house, in 1904.

Mr. Pax was married in 1887 to Louise Wilhelm and they have reared a family of 10 children, namely: Jacob, Anthony, Cecilia, Elma, Leo, Lena, Emma, Oscar and Walter (twins) and Albert. Mr. Pax and his family are members of the Catholic Church.

FRANK PUTHOFF

Frank Puthoff, a representative agriculturist of Jefferson township, resides upon his farm of 120 acres, favorably situated in section 3, township 6 south, range 2 east, where he carries on general farming and stock-raising. He was born in Marion township, Mercer County, Ohio, February 26, 1844, and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Long) Puthoff.

Henry Puthoff was born in Germany and spent his earlier life there. After the death of his father, he came to Mercer County, Ohio, with two brothers, and later sent for his mother who had remained in Germany. She lived many years after joining her children and died at the age of 84 years. Henry Puthoff died in 1873.

Frank Puthoff was reared in Marion township and attended the neighboring schools. On October 4, 1864, he was married to Catherine Brandywine, a native of Auglaize County, Ohio, who is a daughter of Herman Henry and Caroline (Johns) Brandywine, the former of whom was born in Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Puthoff have had 10 children, namely: John, who married Mary Knapke, and has four children; Elizabeth, who married Michael Reusch and died June 5, 1897; Katie, who married George Ineichen, lives in Indiana and has five children; Benjamin, who married Coletta Wourms, in October, 1905; Mary, who married Thomas Durbin and has three children; Henry, who married Mary McGill, October 10, 1905, and lives in Colorado; Jacob, who married Magdalena Buehler, in February, 1906; and Andrew, Joseph and Caroline, all living at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Puthoff lived for nine years in Auglaize County with his father-in-law, and then bought 80 acres of his present farm. The family continued to live in a log cabin until 1881, although Mr. Puthoff kept continually improving his land. The cabin still stands on the place. In 1881 he erected the present commodious and comfortable frame residence. Mr. Puthoff served his school district for 15 years as director and took a great deal of interest in advancing the usefulness of the schools. He is a worthy member of the Catholic Church at Celina.

ADAM BETTINGER

ADAM BETTINGER, a successful farmer of Butler township, who owns 80 acres of excellent land, situated in section 28, was born in Bavaria, Germany, September 8, 1834, and is a son of John and Barbara (Swartz) Bettinger.

The parents of Mr. Bettinger were both born in Germany, where the father owned a small farm. Desiring more land, he decided to emigrate to America, and with his family took passage in 1846 on a sailing vessel, which landed them at the port of New York after a long voyage. John Bettinger settled on a farm in Seneca County, Ohio, four years later removing to Lucas County, where he died in 1856. His widow died in Lucas County in 1871.

Adam Bettinger continued to live in Lucas County until 1866 and then returned to Seneca County, where he rented a farm for a few years. In 1869, after investigating the farming land in Mercer County, Mr. Bettinger bought his present farm in Butler township, 40 acres of which were improved. He erected the house and barn himself and made all the other improvements, which have converted this into one of the best farms in the township. Mr. Bettinger has always been a hard worker and through his enterprise and industry has accumulated a fine property.

In 1861 Mr. Bettinger was married to Mary Omlor, daughter of Theodore Omlor. She was born in Germany and was two years old when her parents brought her with them to this country. Mr. and Mrs. Bettinger have had 13 children, namely: John, who married Lizzie Rhein, lives at Coldwater and has six children; Frank, who married Josephine Albers, lives on his farm of 110 acres in Butler township, and has six children; William, who married Carrie Rahe, deceased, has one child; Charles, who married Kate Hoenning and has two children; Jacob, unmarried, who lives on the home farm; Catherine, who married John Wentzel, lives at Dayton and has one child; Mary, who married Ora Rhoades and lives at Dayton; Rose, who married Frank Fullenkamp and lives at Celina; Stephen, who lives at home; and Joseph, Joseph (2), Anthony and Margaret, who are deceased.

Mr. Bettinger is a member of the Catholic Church. He has always been an active citizen of the township and for 21 years he served as a member of the School Board.

JOHN BREHM

JOHN BREHM, one of the old and respected residents of Liberty township, who has resided on his present farm of 100 acres, situated in section

10, for the past 34 years, was born in Bavaria, Germany, November 10, 1828, and is a son of Fettus Brehm.

The parents of Mr. Brehm were intelligent German people who afforded their son good educational advantages. He learned the trade of baker in his own land, but he came to America when 20 years of age and since then has been entirely engaged in agricultural pursuits. He lived in Montgomery County, Ohio, until 1872, when he brought his family to Mercer County and settled on his present farm in Liberty township. He still retains 100 acres but has given farms to his children and has been liberal to the church.

In Montgomery County, Ohio, John Brehm was married to Mary Lower, and they had eight children, five of whom are still living, as follows: John C., Caroline (wife of John Deitsch), John Peter, Valentine W. and Henry C. Henry C. Brehm, the youngest son of our subject, is a prominent citizen of Liberty township and one of the leading Democrats. He has served four years on the township School Board and in 1900 served on the board of election. On June 27, 1889, he married Phebe Leininger, a daughter of Jacob Leininger, of Liberty township, and they have four children, namely: Margaret C., Walter E., George J. and William H., all grandchildren of whom our venerable subject may well be proud.

John Brehm's second marriage also took place in Montgomery County, to Margaret Bollenbacher. They had three children, the two survivors of this marriage being: Mary, wife of Andy Bauer; and Elizabeth, widow of Jacob Bauer.

All through the years of citizenship, Mr. Brehm has consistently supported the candidates of the Democratic party. He is one of the leading members of St. Paul's German Evangelical Church.

JOHN H. YANEY

John H. Yaney, whose fine farm of 85 acres of excellent land is situated in section 23, Butler township, is one of the representative agriculturists of this part of the county and a very highly respected citizen. He was born in Butler township, Mercer County, Ohio, September 16, 1859, and is a son of Benjamin and Martha Ann (Monroe) Yaney.

Benjamin Yaney was born in Pennsylvania. In boyhood, his father having died, he accompanied his mother to Mercer County, Ohio, among the early settlers. His whole mature life was spent in this county; he died when our subject was only three years old. His widow survived but seven years, dying when John H. was 10 years and 15 days old. From then until his marriage, our subject resided with his grandmother, Mrs. Mary Jane Mon-

roe. He worked on her farm and attended the district schools and grew into a well-trained young manhood.

On April 6, 1880, Mr. Yaney was united in marriage with Abigail Lucretia Johnson, a daughter of Gratz M. Johnson. She was born in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, September 11, 1856, and died on Sunday, June 24, 1906, the birthday of her daughter, Lucretia Velma, and was buried on the birthday of her son Floyd. Her age was 49 years, 9 months and 13 days. She was 13 years old when she accompanied her parents to Mercer County and resided with them near Montezuma until her marriage. She was a lady of beautiful christian character, a faithful member of the United Brethren Church from the age of 20 years, a devoted wife and mother and a kind and sympathetic neighbor.

Mr. and Mrs. Yaney had three sons and six daughters born to them, all of whom survive except Clifton Earl. The others are: Nevada, who married John E. Bright, lives near Dayton and has one child; Orla, who lives at home; Hester Estella, who married John Plummer, lives in Washington township and has twin children; and Floyd Monroe, Martha Ann, Lucretia Velma, Mildred Cleo and Stanley Gladstone, all residing at home.

Mr. Yaney inherited 40 acres of land from his mother and in 1885 he purchased 45 acres more. He has improved this property, which is considered one of the best in Butler township. In 1884 he built a commodious frame house and added other substantial buildings. The great barn was completed in 1904. The farm bears the pleasant name of the "Clover Leaf Farm," and here Mr. Yaney carries on general farming, does some dairying and produces fine live-stock.

For a number of years Mr. Yaney has been one of the leading members of the Radical United Brethren Church, in which he is a class leader and a trustee. He is a man, who on account of the uprightness of his character stands very high in the estimation of his fellow-citizens.

JOHN F. FRAHM

John F. Frahm, clerk of the Board of Education of Hopewell township, is one of the representative men of this section of Mercer County. He resides on his well-improved farm of 80 acres in section 15. Mr. Frahm belongs to one of the old pioneer families of the township, in which he was born October 7, 1860, and is a son of John H. and Sophia (Smith) Frahm, natives of Germany.

The parents of our subject emigrated to America and settled in Hopewell township, Mercer County, about 1852. John H. Frahm was a man

of more than usual good judgment and in the course of time he became a very useful and prominent citizen of Mercer County. He served as trustee of Hopewell township and for six years was a member of the Board of County Commissioners. His political views made him a Democrat and he was an active party worker. His death occurred in April, 1899. He was a worthy member and liberal supporter of the Lutheran Church. His seven surviving children are: Minnie, wife of John Hoenie, of Hopewell township; August, of Hopewell township; John F., of this sketch; Elizabeth, wife of Henry Brasch, of Tipton, Indiana; Frederica, widow of Frederick Rahn, now residing at Celina; Charles, of Hopewell township; and Anna, wife of John Luth, of Dublin township.

John F. Frahm was reared in Hopewell township and was thoroughly trained in agricultural pursuits. He was educated in the public schools, in which he has always taken a great interest and, as noted above, is now serving as clerk of the Board of Education. The schools of Hopewell township have an enviable reputation for their efficiency. Previous to taking this position, he served four years as township clerk. Mr. Frahm carries on general farming and is considered one of the leading agriculturists of his locality.

Mr. Frahm was united in marriage with Louisa Sielschott, who was born in Hopewell township, Mercer County, and is a daughter of G. W. Sielschott. Mr. and Mrs. Frahm have six children, namely: Clarence W., Otto B., Hilda B., Edgar J., Harold and an infant son.

Politically Mr. Frahm is identified with the Democratic party. He is a member of the Lutheran Church and is serving as one of the deacons of the church in Hopewell township.

JACOB BECHER

Jacob Becher, who is engaged in farming in Black Creek township, has resided here since 1882 on his present valuable farm of 80 acres, near Chattanooga. He was born in Liberty township, Mercer County, Ohio, May 8, 1859, and is a son of John and Anna Maria (Baker) Becher.

The parents of Mr. Becher had a large family, of whom the eight survivors are as follows: Sophia, wife of Jacob B. German, of Van Wert County, Ohio; Mary, wife of Frederick Dasher, of Van Wert, Ohio; Jacob, of this sketch; Louisa, wife of Philip W. Deitsch, of Celina; John F. and George W., both of Liberty township; Matilda B., wife of John Gribler, of Van Wert; and William of Liberty township. Catherine and Henry are deceased.

The father of our subject was born in Germany and the mother in

GUSTAV DAMMEYER

JULIUS DAMMEYER

THEODORE DAMMEYER

RESIDENCE AND BARN OF HENRY FRED DAMMEYER

Pennsylvania. The former died July 25, 1883, but the latter still survives and resides with her affectionate children in Liberty township. John Becher was a boy when he came to America with his parents. His father, Frederick Becher, settled in what was then a wilderness in Black Creek township, Mercer County. The grandfather and father of Jacob Becher were pioneer settlers who proved their worth by clearing their lands, cultivating them thoroughly and assisting in all the civilizing movements of their day. The township lost men of high character when Frederick and John Becher passed away. They were Lutherans in religion and Democrats in politics.

Jacob Becher was reared on his father's farm and attended the district schools. His training was all along agricultural lines and he has been familiar with farming in all its details since boyhood. He has resided on his present farm since 1882, as noted above, and in the quarter century which has elapsed has become identified with all the educational and public interests of this neighborhood. He is numbered with the good farmers of this township.

On October 12, 1882, Mr. Becher was married to Mary Kettering, who was born in Washington township, Mercer County, Ohio, and they have nine children, as follows: John Henry Frederick, Caroline Alminnie Anna, George Jacob Edward, Ida Fredericka Catherine and Iva Mary Margaret (twins), Sarah Ella Jane, James William Theobald, Clarence Oliver Raymond and Samuel Oscar Leroy. Mr. Becher and family belong to the Lutheran Church. Politically he is a Democrat.

HENRY FRED DAMMEYER

Henry Fred Dammeyer, who owns a fine farm of 121 acres situated in section 25, Franklin township, was born September 17, 1840, at New Bremen, Auglaize County, Ohio, and is a son of Henry and Margaret (Meyer) Dammeyer.

Henry Dammeyer and his wife, both of whom were natives of Germany, came to this country and settled in Auglaize County, Ohio, where they purchased a farm of 40 acres near New Bremen. Mr. Dammeyer's brother Christopher came to America with him and died shortly afterwards. Henry Dammeyer was the father of two children: Sophia, who married Fred Frey and lives in Hillsboro, Illinois; and Henry Fred, the subject of this sketch. Mr. Dammeyer died near New Bremen at the age of 62 years. After his death his wife sold the farm and with the family moved to Franklin township, settling on a farm which her son, Henry Fred Dammeyer, bought from Morris

Kelly, where Gustav Dammeyer, our subject's son, now lives. Mrs. Dammeyer died on the farm in 1888 at the age of 82 years.

Henry Fred Dammeyer was reared on his father's farm and has always devoted himself to agricultural pursuits. After his marriage he continued to live on the farm purchased from Morris Kelly. Finally he sold this farm to his son Gustav, and in 1892 bought his present farm, which was the Myles Lane farm. Mr. Dammeyer has one of the most highly developed farms in Franklin township; the beautiful hedge fence, on each side of the driveway leading to the house, adds much to the attractiveness of the place.

Mr. Dammeyer was married January 24, 1867, to Auguste Thieman, a daughter of Harmon H. and Margaret (Stapelberg) Thieman, natives of Germany. Upon coming to this country, Mr. and Mrs. Thieman located at Cincinnati, Ohio, where they remained for two years, and then moved to New Bremen. They were the parents of four children: Frank; Christopher; Gustav; and Auguste. Mrs. Dammeyer was born in Germany, November 16, 1850, and was two years old when the family came to the United States. She was reared and educated at New Bremen, Ohio. Her father died in 1855, and her mother, August 31, 1893. Mr. and Mrs. Dammeyer have had 11 children, namely: Julius, who married Rosina Tontrup, and has three children; Gustav, who married Christina Rump and has five children; Theodore, who married Lora Huenke and has three children; Edward, who died at the age of 23 years; William, who married Ida Kammon, and has one child; Amanda, who married Leo Huenke and has one child; Levi; Otto; Adelia; Oscar and Frieda. Mr. Dammeyer and his wife are members of the Lutheran Church at New Bremen.

Portraits of Julius, Gustav and Theodore Dammeyer and views of the residence and barn of Henry Fred Dammeyer accompany this sketch.

JOHN F. ROECKNER

John F. Roeckner, one of the substantial farmers of Marion township, who resides on his 100-acre farm in section 13, was born February 29, 1860, and is a son of William and Bernardina (Clune) Roeckner.

William Roeckner was born in Hanover, Germany, one of a large family of children, but he and one brother were the only ones to come to this country, the latter probably locating in Illinois. William Roeckner first settled at Cincinnati, where he worked for a time, subsequently moving to Berlin, Ohio, where he and a Mr. Dreesman contracted to complete a part of the canal. A few years later he moved to Mercer County and was married to Bernardina Clune, a native of Germany, and a daughter of Arnold Clune.

Arnold Clune came from Hanover, Germany, to this country and settled in Mercer County, where he bought land from the government about 80 years ago. He was one of the first settlers of Mercer County, when his family was one of the six or eight families in this section. He purchased the land now owned by John F. Roeckner about 1828, and five years later his three children followed him to America, their mother having died some years previously. The children were as follows: Gerhard, Maximilian and Bernardina.

After his marriage, William Roeckner bought from his father-in-law the farm which the latter had secured from the Government, and later bought 120 acres more in the same township. A family of 10 children were born to William and Bernardina (Clune) Roeckner: Mary, who married Casper Desch—both now deceased; Joseph, who lives at Coldwater; Catherine, who died aged 18 years; John; Elizabeth, who married Joseph Knapke and lives at Sidney, Ohio; Frances, who married John Buehler and lives at McCartyville, Ohio; Margaret, deceased in infancy; William, who married (first) Philomena Desch and (second) Catherine Gerlach and died in 1901; and Fred and a babe, both deceased in infancy. William Roeckner died in March, 1876, and his wife, in April, 1901.

John Roeckner was born and reared on his present farm. His father died when he was 16 years old and he was obliged to assist his mother in supporting the family. He was married in 1890 to Elizabeth Hinders, a daughter of Gerhard and Maria (Haggerman) Hinders, and a sister of Joseph Hinders, who was recently sheriff of Mercer County. Seven children were born to this marriage: Leona, Odilia, Agatha, William, Werner, Otto and Rose Mary, all of whom are living at home. Mr. Roeckner was one of the petitioners for the Roeckner pike, which was named after him and of which he is now superintendent. His brother William was township treasurer and when he died the position was offered to Mr. Roeckner, which, however, he refused. Mr. Roeckner and family are members of the Catholic Church.

JOHN J. KNAPKE

John J. Knapke, one of the prosperous agriculturists of Jefferson township, owns a fine farm of 80 acres, 70 of which is in section 35, and 10 in section 34, township 5 south, range 2 east. He was born in Hopewell township, Mercer County, Ohio, one mile north of his present home, February 26, 1877. He is a son of Henry and Mary (Bertke) Knapke.

The parents of Henry Knapke were born in Germany and both died in Mercer County. Henry was born at Maria Stein, this county, and grew up

in the vicinity of that place, an orphan and a poor boy who had to make his own way in the world. That he succeeded was shown when he owned enough land to give his three sons farms of 80 acres each, and still retain 112 acres. He married Mary Bertke and their children were: Henry, died in infancy; Kate, who married Joseph Ineichen and resides in Jefferson township; Mary, who married John Puthoff and lives in Jefferson township; Annie, who married Basil Halsma and lives in Oklahoma; John J. and Benjamin (twins), the latter dying in infancy; and Joseph, Agnes, Augustus and Carrie, who live on the home farm. Henry Knapke died September 23, 1906, aged 59 years.

John J. Knapke was reared in Hopewell township and was educated in the district schools. On March 2, 1900, he married Lizzie Bruns, a daughter of Augustus Bruns, of Mercer County. They have had two children, Edith and Irvin, the latter of whom died September 17, 1906.

After his marriage, Mr. Knapke settled on the 80-acre farm which had been given him by his father, but in May, 1906, he sold that property and moved to the present farm, which he bought from his brother-in-law. He carries on general farming operations, raises some stock and has a fine dairy.

Mr. Knapke is a member of the Catholic Church. For many years he has been a member of the German Independent Aid Society. In his neighborhood he is counted among the reliable, honorable men of the community.

JOHN BRACKMAN

John Brackman, who has lived all of his life on his present farm of 139 acres, situated in section 2, Marion township, was born March, 1845, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Tiesem) Brackman.

John Brackman and his wife, who were both of German birth, came to this country from Hanover, Germany, locating for a short time in the South. They also lived in Cincinnati, Ohio, for a short time, after which they came to Mercer County, Ohio, among the early settlers, and purchased 60 acres of land from the government at $1.50 an acre. At that time the United States Land Office was at Lima and the deed was signed by President Martin Van Buren. Afterwards 79 acres more were purchased from the government at $2.00 per acre. Mr. and Mrs. Brackman only had one child, John, the subject of this sketch. Mrs. Brackman died about 1851 and her husband died six years later.

John Brackman, the subject of this sketch, lived until 12 years of age with his parents. At that time his father died, leaving him the farm of 139 acres. Mr. Sherman was appointed guardian, but died shortly after. Our subject worked around on different farms for a time and also spent some time

in Cincinnati. When 21 years of age he came into possession of his property. The country at that time was still chiefly timberland. The Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railway runs through his property now.

Mr. Brackman was married in 1866 to Caroline Overman, a daughter of Henry and Agnes (Bockman) Overman. Henry Overman and his wife came from Germany to this country, and were married at Cincinnati, Ohio. They had 10 children: Mary, who married Henry Reichert; Henry, deceased; Barney; Fred, deceased; Anthony; Agnes, deceased, who was the wife of Benjamin Miller; Elizabeth, who married Henry Gottemoller; John; Joseph, deceased; and Caroline, the wife of our subject, who was born May 5, 1847, in Marion township, Mercer County, Ohio. Mr. Overman died March 8, 1876. His wife died May 5, 1904.

Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Brackman, as follows: Agnes, who married August Rutchilling, and after his death Joseph Winners and lives in Berlin, Shelby County—she had one child by her first marriage, Henry, and has two children by her second marriage, Leona and Alexander; Henry, who married Anna Lubke, lives near his father and has one child, William; Elizabeth, who married Henry Bruns, lives in Marion township and has four children—Caroline, Anna, Laura and Clara; John; Clara; Catherine; Frank; Vincent; Amy; and Anthony, who died when an infant. Mr. Brackman and his family are members of St. John's Catholic Church. He served two terms as township trustee.

MICHAEL REUSCH

Michael Reusch, a well-known citizen and excellent farmer of Jefferson township, residing on a farm of 80 acres located in section 33, township 5 south, range 2 east, was born in Germany, September 6, 1860, and is a son of Gottfried and Maria (Saltzer) Reusch.

Michael Reusch was reared and educated in Germany and worked at farming and wine making until 21 years of age, when he came to America and located at Celina, Ohio, where his brother Christopher had located three years previously. He secured employment on a dairy farm and remained there the following 22 months. On September 1, 1888, he was appoined superintendent of the County Infirmary, where he had previously been working. He continued to fill that office for the next 15 years, and during that time made many needed changes, which benefited the inmates. In the spring of 1893 Mr. Reusch purchased his present home, where he has made many decided improvements.

On September 6, 1888, Michael Reusch was married (first) to Elizabeth Puthoff, a daughter of Frank Puthoff. She died June 5, 1897, leaving three

children: Harry, Lizzie and Bertha. Mr. Reusch was married (second), August 24, 1898, to Paulina Dosten, a daughter of August Dosten and by his marriage has two children, Pauline and Freda. Mr. Reusch is a member of the German Independent Aid Society.

BERNARD HUELSKAMP

Bernard Huelskamp, who resides on his farm of 120 acres, located in section 25, Marion township, was born June 24, 1870, and is a son of Deitrich and Elizabeth (Tangeman) Huelskamp and a grandson of Henry Huelskamp.

Henry Huelskamp, who was a native of Germany, came to this country in 1835 and settled in Mercer County, Ohio, dying after three years' residence in this country. He was the father of four children, all born in Germany, as follows: Henry (deceased) Deitrich, Joseph and Bernardina.

Deitrich Huelskamp was born June 24, 1822, and came to America with his father when 13 years old. When about 16 years old, his father died and, being the oldest child, he was obliged to support the family. He was married to Elizabeth Tangeman, who was born in Germany and came to America with her parents when about six years old. Her parents, Henry and Anna (Moeller) Tangeman, came to this country from Germany and settled in Marion township on a farm near Maria Stein. Mr. and Mrs. Tangeman had the following children most of whom were born in Germany: Elizabeth, Anthony, Joseph, Fred, Barney, Henry, Catherine and Mary. After his marriage, Mr. Huelskamp continued to live on the home farm near Maria Stein, and there nine children were born, namely: Henry, who died aged four years; Mary, who married Henry Fullenkamp; Frank, deceased; John, who married Mary Heitkamp; Catherine, deceased, who married Peter Brown; Frances, who married Frank Dabelt; Anna, who lives with her father at Maria Stein; Bernard; and Rosa, who died in infacy.

Bernard Huelskamp was born and reared on the farm where he now lives, which property he purchased from his father. He was married in 1894 to Rosa Thobe, who was born December 10, 1876, and is a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Wormen) Thobe. Joseph Thobe was born and raised in Germany and came to America when a young man, settling in Marion township, Mercer County, Ohio. He married Elizabeth Wormen, a daughter of Henry Wormen, also a native of Germany, who emigrated to this country and died in Auglaize County, Ohio, having lived to be almost 100 years old. Mr. and Mrs. Thobe had 14 children as follows: Mary, who married S. Kemper; Elizabeth, who married Joeseph Osterfeld; Anna, who married Joseph

Westgerdes; Catherine, who married Anton Kemper; John, who married Rosa Vehorn; Rosa; Frances, who married Joseph Menke; Josephine, who married John Westgerdes; Anna, who married Barney Geyle; and Henry, Mary, Henry, Joseph and Maggie, who are deceased. Mr. Thobe died June 14, 1906. His wife is living in Auglaize County with her son John.

Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Huelskamp, namely: John, Joseph, Edward, Elizabeth, Loretta, Hilda and Leona. Mr. Huelskamp and family are all members of St. John's Catholic Church.

JOHN GEORGE KUHN

John George Kuhn, a highly esteemed citizen of Coldwater, who is almost entirely retired from active business, was born in Bavaria, Germany, May 27, 1843, and is a son of John G. and Juliana (Schneider) Kuhn.

The Kuhn family emigrated to America in 1847 and the father of our subject started farming on 120 acres of land near Wapakoneta, Ohio. As he was an invalid, the actual labor of the farm was performed by his two sons, with hired help. He died May 8, 1866, but his wife survived until July 12, 1894. Our subject grew up here, assisted in the farming and also learned the wagonmaker's trade.

Mr. Kuhn was not quite 18 years old when President Lincoln's first call went out over the country for troops and he enlisted in Company K, 15th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf. He was mustered into the service on April 26, 1861, served through the three months of his enlistment and was discharged on August 27, 1861. In 1862 he reenlisted for three years, entering Company D, 106th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf. On March 1, 1863, he was made corporal; on May 27, 1864, he was advanced to sergeant and was mustered out with his company on June 29, 1865, being finally discharged and paid on July 12th following.

Mr. Kuhn served first under General Buell, near Covington, Kentucky, and later marched 200 miles through that State and Tennessee, his command being much engaged in this vicinity during the early part of the war. On April 7, 1862, the whole brigade was captured by the enemy, at Hartsville, Tennessee, but soon escaped. During his service of three years he received two wounds in his left leg. During his last year of service, Sergeant Kuhn was a scout.

After his return from the war, Mr. Kuhn settled in Auglaize County and went to work at wagon-making, soon entering the employ of Jacob Koch in this line at St. Marys. In December, 1865, he formed a partnership with Mr. Koch and the business was continued until February, 1867, when he sold out and moved to Chattanooga, Mercer County, where he conducted wagon works

until January 1, 1869. During his stay there he bought a farm of 80 acres in Black Creek township, and after closing his business he moved upon the farm and operated it until the fall of 1875, when he sold out. He then moved to Decatur, Indiana, and in that vicinity he bought a farm of 80 acres, on which he resided until March 16, 1883. He then disposed of that property and removed to Butler township, Mercer County, buying another 80 acres. He moved on this farm and continued to reside on it until April 8, 1904, when he bought his home at Coldwater. The farm was sold in November, 1905.

On February 6, 1866, Mr. Kuhn was married (first) to Barbara Nuss, who died November 27, 1871, leaving three children, viz: William H., of Elyria, Ohio; Emma L., wife of Lasius Walters, of Coldwater; and Edward. On October 28, 1873, Mr. Kuhn was married (second) to Anna Mary Straubinger, and they had seven children, namely: Frederick, of the State of Washington; Jacob, who died aged two weeks; Frank T., of Dayton; Anthony, of Middletown, Ohio; Michael, of Covington, Ohio; and Julia and Mary, living at home. Frederick and Anthony served in the Spanish-American War; after its conclusion, Frederick then entered the United States regular army and served in the artillery in the Philippines, receiving his discharge in 1902.

Mr. Kuhn has served the township in many responsible positions and has always been an official in whom his fellow-citizens placed every confidence. For 20 years he was a justice of the peace in Butler township, finally resigning the office; for 12 years and five months he was township clerk of Butler township and served also as trustee of Liberty township, Mercer County. Mr. Kuhn is a valued member of the Grand Army of the Republic organization. He is a member of the Catholic Church. With the exception of performing the duties of a notary public, Mr. Kuhn takes upon himself no business cares. He has a wide circle of friends by whom he is highly considered.

FREDERICK KUHN

Frederick Kuhn, a highly esteemed resident of Celina, occupying a comfortable home on West Livingston near Mill street, has been a resident of Mercer County since 1847 and for over a half century was identified with the agricultural interests of Liberty township. Mr. Kuhn is also an honored survivor of the great Civil War. He was born in Bavaria, Germany, April 28, 1829, and is a son of Henry and Margaret (Bollenbacher) Kuhn.

In 1847 the Kuhn family left Germany and came directly to Mercer County, Ohio, settling in section 7, Liberty township. At that time pioneer conditions prevailed all through this locality, the native forest growth still stood where now are cultivated fields and thriving towns, and the family

was obliged to endure many hardships and privations to which it had not been accustomed in the old country. The parents of our subject died on the home farm in Liberty township, the mother not many weeks after the settlement was made. They were quiet, industrious, home-building, worthy German people and were respected by all who knew them.

Frederick Kuhn was a hardy youth of 18 years when his parents settled on the pioneer farm in Liberty township and upon him fell a great deal of the hard work which was necessary in the clearing and cultivation of the land. His education was more liberal than was afforded many of his companions, as he had been thoroughly trained in the schools of his native land. From the peaceful pursuits of the farm, Mr. Kuhn went into the army in the second year of the Civil War, enlisting on August 12, 1862, in Company F, 99th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., which became a part of the Army of the Cumberland. He was honorably discharged from the service, at Camp Douglas, Chicago, Illinois, July 1, 1865. During nine months of army life, he served as a provost guard, under Colonel Mathews. He participated in many of the great battles of the war, which included Stone River, Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge, and in innumerable skirmishes in which many of his comrades were either wounded or captured by the enemy. Mr. Kuhn was fortunate enough to escape all dangers, although always at the post of duty, and returned to Mercer County, practically unharmed.

Upon his return home he resumed farming in Liberty township, where he continued to reside until August, 1906, when he turned over the active work on the farm to younger hands and, with his estimable wife, retired to the quiet and comfort of a home he had purchased in Celina. Mr. Kuhn still retains his well-improved farm of 140 acres in Liberty township and also owns an excellent farm of 80 acres in Jefferson township, Adams County, Indiana.

On February 8, 1866, Mr. Kuhn was married to Wilhelmina Wellemeyer, who was born February 25, 1842, in Prussia, Germany. In 1852 she accompanied her parents, Frederick and Mary (Brune) Wellemeyer, to America, and was reared in Auglaize County, Ohio, where they were early settlers. To our subject and wife were born seven children, the five survivors being: Mary W., who is the wife of G. P. Hoeper, of Hopewell township; Frederick T., living on the home place in Liberty township, who married Mary D. Linn and has three children—Clarence R., Bertha C. and Hugo W.; Philip W., living on his father's farm in Adams County, Indiana, who married Fanny B. Sielschott and has one child, Florence S. W.; and Elizabeth M. and Rebecca, both living in Celina. Mr. Kuhn and his family belong to the Lutheran Church at Chattanooga, in which at various times he has held office. Politically he is a Democrat. During his long residence in Liberty township he

assisted in all public improvements and furthered the cause of education, serving a long time as school director.

HENRY BRACKMAN

Henry Brackman, whose fine farm of 110 acres is situated in section 15, Recovery township, was born in Marion township, Mercer County, Ohio, April 18, 1837, and is a son of John and Agnes (Dorgeloh) Brackman.

The parents of Mr. Brackman were both natives of Germany. At the age of 15 years, John Brackman became an ocean sailor and followed the sea until he was 22 years of age. In order to escape service in the German Army, he came to America and settled at Baltimore, where he worked on the railroad then being constructed between Baltimore and Washington. From there he came to Cincinnati, Ohio, later going to Alabama where he worked through the winter, returning in the spring to Cincinnati, making the trip on a steamboat running between New Orleans and Cincinnati. In the latter city he married and there he continued to make his home. In the summer time he worked on the steamboats on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, while in the winter time he was employed in railroad and canal construction work. In the spring of 1836 he came to Marion township, Mercer County, where he entered 80 acres of wild land for himself and 80 acres for his friend, Frank Evers, paying $100 for his 80 acres. The land had been entered two years before, in 1834.

Mr. Brackman built a round-log cabin on his land, which, as prosperity came to him through hard work, was replaced by a hewed-log house. On this farm his children, six in number, were reared. He died in 1873.

John Brackman was married (first) to Agnes Dorgeloh, who died in 1838, leaving one child, Henry, the subject of this sketch, who was then one year and seven months old. A cousin, Catherine Dorgeloh, came to take care of the infant and she subsequently became Mr. Brackman's second wife. Five children were born to this union, of whom the survivors are: Theodore and Catherine, who live on the old farm in Marion township.

Henry Brackman attended school in Marion township and remained at home until his marriage. His first farm was one of 45 acres, located in Marion township, to which he added until he owned 125 acres, which he sold in 1882, when he bought his farm in Recovery township, which then consisted of 160 acres. Later he sold 50 acres of the farm to his son. He has always carried on general farming and is considered one of the successful agriculturists of his neighborhood.

On June 14, 1864, Mr. Brackman was married to Agnes Dahlinghaus,

daughter of Bernard Dahlinghaus, and they have had nine children, as follows: John, residing on a farm of 50 acres which he purchased from his father, who has six children; Frank, deceased at the age of 25 years and 6 months, at Belleville, Illinois, who was one of the professors at St. Peter's Institute and also organist in the Catholic Church; Mary, who married Aloys Guggenviller, resides at Wendelin and has five children; Annie, who is the wife of August C. Eifert, a county school examiner, and the mother of four children; Joseph, who married Rosa Bruns, has one son, Raymond, and resides with his father; Minnie, who lives in Fort Recovery; and Henry, also single, who is a teacher in the school of St. Joseph's Church and is also church organist. The whole family belong to St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

For many years Mr. Brackman served on the Board of Education. He has also been supervisor and trustee of the township, and is a very highly valued citizen.

BERNARD JOHNSMAN

Bernard Johnsman, a representative agriculturist of Jefferson township, who owns a fine farm of 80 acres, situated in section 34, township 5 south, range 2 east, was born April 14, 1834, in Prussia, and is a son of Christopher and Christina (Borgman) Johnsman.

Bernard Johnsman was 26 years of age when he came to America. He had obtained a fair education in the public schools of his own land and had performed his military duty by serving three years in the Prussian Army. As his parents were dead, nothing prevented his seeking a home and friends in another country. The first place in which he settled after reaching the United States was Lockland, near Cincinnati, where he remained three years, but after marriage he removed to Minster, Auglaize County. There he worked three years on a farm, and then came to his present place, buying these 80 acres in 1867. Here Mr. Johnsman has developed a valuable farm and carries on general farming and stock-raising.

At Lockland, Ohio, in 1863, Mr. Johnsman was married (first) to Clara Lutz, who died in 1868, leaving two children, Clara and Henry, both now deceased. The latter lived to be 22 years old and the former reached her 29th year. Mr. Johnsman was married (second) to Katie Huelsman, and they have had 10 children, namely: John, a farmer in Jefferson township, who married Della McKinsey and has two children, both deceased, Bernard and Walter Bernard; Clemmens, a cavalryman in the United States Army, now stationed in Oregon; Andrew, Frank and George, who assist on the home farm; Mrs. Caroline Hill, residing at Fairmont, Indiana, who has one daughter, Thelma; Mary, who married William Harlet and lives in Celina;

Elizabeth and Christina, who are at home; and Catherine, who died in infancy.

In politics, Mr. Johnsman is a stanch Democrat. He belongs to German social organizations at Celina. He is a worthy member of the Catholic Church and devotes a part of his income to religious purposes and is a reliable and upright citizen.

HENRY KUHN

Henry Kuhn, a representative citizen of Liberty township, for 13 consecutive years its efficient treasurer, and for a long period a successful agriculturist in this part of Mercer County, resides on an excellent farm of 80 acres, which was a tract of woodland when he first came to it. He was born in Bavaria, Germany, December 3, 1831, and is a son of Henry and Margaret (Bollenbacher) Kuhn.

The parents of Mr. Kuhn came to America with their children when Henry was between 15 and 16 years old. They wished to establish a home in Ohio and settled on an uncultivated, uncleared tract of land in Liberty township, Mercer County. Probably the long journey and unaccustomed hardship undermined the health of the mother, for she died six weeks after reaching the pioneer home in Liberty township. The father, assisted by his sons, cleared the land and developed an excellent farm, although it required years of industry to accomplish it. The father died also on the home farm in Liberty township. Of his children, four survive, as follows: Frederick, formerly of Liberty township, now a resident of Celina; Henry, of this sketch; Elizabeth, wife of John Herzog, of Hartford City, Indiana; and Caroline, wife of John Duer, living near Decatur, Indiana.

Henry Kuhn grew to man's estate in Liberty township, attending the district schools and assisting his father on the farm. He married Maria Duer, who was born in Mahoning County, Ohio, and they have had six children, as follows: William, of Black Creek township; Rebecca K., wife of Ephraim Camp, of Kalamazoo County, Michigan; Emma J., wife of Frank Landfair, of Black Creek township; Adam, of Liberty township; and two deceased.

Mr. Kuhn is a representative member of the Democratic party and on account of his sterling character and good citizenship has frequently been called upon to accept important and responsible township offices. He has served as trustee and was then elected treasurer and was reelected for 13 consecutive years, a very unusual occurence. He is one of the leading members of the German Reformed Church.

JACOB LEININGER

JACOB LEININGER, a most highly esteemed resident of Liberty township and one of the old settlers of this locality, resides on his valuable farm of 160 acres, on which he located more than 50 years ago. He was born in Stark County, Ohio, November 11, 1832, and is a son of John and Margaret Leininger.

The parents of our subject were born in Alsace, now a part of the German Empire, and came to America about 1826, locating in Stark County, Ohio, where they lived until 1833, when they removed to Mercer County. They were early settlers in Washington township and there they spent the rest of their lives.

Jacob Leininger was reared in Washington township and his school opportunities were only those afforded by the pioneer schools of the time. When he came to Liberty township the native timber still stood on his present farm and years of hard work ensued before the land was entirely cleared. It is now a fine property, valuable from every point of view.

Mr. Leininger was married in young manhood to Catherine Kettenring, who was born in Germany and is a daughter of Henry Kettenring, who brought his family to America when Mrs. Leininger was a child and settled in Holmes County, Ohio. At a later date the family moved to Washington township, Mercer County, where Mrs. Leininger was married. To this union 10 children were born and eight of these are still living, as follows: Margaret, widow of Frederick Betzel, residing at Fort Wayne, Indiana; Theobald, of Black Creek township; Christina, wife of Andrew Harb, of Black Creek township; William H., also of Black Creek township; Mary, wife of Frederick Schaadt, of Van Wert County; John, residing on his father's farm; Phebe, wife of Henry Brehm, of Liberty township; and George S., of Black Creek township.

Mr. Leininger is one of the substantial members of the Democratic party in Liberty township. The only office he has ever accepted has been that of township trustee. For many years he has been a member of St. Paul's Evangelical Church. He is one of the township's representative men.

WILLIAM H. BRYAN

WILLIAM H. BRYAN, a representative agriculturist of Washington township, residing on his well-improved farm of 124 acres situated in section 3, was born May 2, 1852, in Ridge township, Van Wert County, Ohio, and is a son of William Patterson and Rebecca (Leathers) Bryan.

William P. Bryan was born in Pennsylvania and removed to Van Wert County just after attaining young manhood. In December, 1866, he moved to Mercer County, and resided with his eldest son, Daniel Bryan, until his death in January, 1867. He was married in Allen County, Ohio, to Rebecca Leathers, who died in 1863, when our subject was 11 years old.

William H. Bryan was about 14 years of age when he accompanied his brother to Mercer County, with whom he remained for one year and then entered the employ of the Spriggs family, with whom he remained for six years and seven months continuously. During this time he was well trained in all kinds of farm work and was prepared to farm on his own account, which he did for two years on rented land. On February 27, 1873, he bought the old Hiram Shaw farm of 160 acres, which he still owns. Gradually he accumulated land until he owned 244 acres. In 1903 he advantageously sold 40 acres and has given 40 acres each to his two oldest sons. In association with his eldest son, Mr. Bryan also owns 80 acres of good land in Michigan. In addition to carrying on extensive operations in general farming and stock-raising, Mr. Bryan spent 13 years in the contracting business, mainly in the line of building turnpike roads. He has constructed many miles of these excellent highways in Mercer and Auglaize counties. He has always been a man of enterprise, through sound sense and excellent business judgment has made his business ventures successful.

In April, 1877, Mr. Bryan was married to Mary E. Fennig, who is a daughter of John Fennig, and they have five children, as follows: John Garrel, who married Sadie Culp and lives on a farm of 40 acres given him by his father; Charles A., who resides at home, also owning a farm of 40 acres given him by his father; Daisy B., who married Earl Dumbauld, lives in Jefferson township and has had two children, Marie and Guy, the latter of whom died aged 6 months and 17 days; Ethel, who married Henry Bobenmoyer and resides with her father in Washington township; and James, who lives at home.

Although, as noted above, Mr. Bryan has always been a successful business man, he has met with some misfortunes. On May 14, 1886, a terribly destructive cyclone swept through Washington township, which leveled all his farm buildings, his fine orchard and destroyed 40 acres of timber.

JOHN ROETHER

John Roether, whose death occurred in 1885, was for many years one of the most prominent citizens of Union township. He was born April 17, 1835, and was a son of William Roether.

William Roether, the father of our subject, came to Mercer County from Mansfield, Ohio, about 1852, locating on the farm which is now occupied by the widow of our subject. He was the father of nine children, namely: Isaac, deceased, who resided in Richland County, Ohio; Abram, who lives near McComb in Hancock County; Levi, who was killed by a train; Daniel, deceased, who was a physician at Bluffton, Indiana; Henry, a physician, who is a resident of Adrian, Michigan; Mrs. Hannah Zern, of Auburn, Indiana; Elizabeth, widow of Daniel Lemunyon, residing at Mendon; John, the subject of this sketch; and a daughter, deceased.

John Roether came with his parents to Mercer County when about 17 years old. He attended school and assisted his father in clearing and improving the farm until the time of his marriage. He was married in October, 1859, to Almira Hamilton, a daughter of Hon. Justin Hamilton. Mr. and Mrs. Roether became the parents of five children: Alice, who married W. A. Bedell, resides near Mendon and has five children—Della, Ada, Norma, Buell and Emory; Orrilla, who married William Parrott and died in 1892, leaving two children—Lawrence and Lee, the latter deceased in 1900; Etta, who married George Ballinger, resides east of Montezuma, and has one child, Glenn; William, who married Cora Krugh, a daughter of John Krugh, of Union township, resides on the John Bedell farm in Union township, and has a daughter, unnamed; and Floyd, who is unmarried and lives with his mother. Lawrence Parrott, a grandson, has made his home with Mrs. Roether for the past five years.

Hon. Justin Hamilton, the father of Mrs. Roether, was born September 11, 1796, and died February 19, 1863. He was a son of Hugh and Isabelle (Knox) Hamilton, the former born October 31, 1770, and the latter, December 25, 1772. Hugh Hamilton lived and died in New York State. He was the father of six children: Justin, father of Mrs. Roether, and Justus, his twin; William, who was justice of the peace for several years in Union township; Leonard; Lucinda and Isabelle.

Hon. Justin Hamilton came to Mercer County in 1822 and was among the county's very earliest settlers, the country still being in a very wild state, and was inhabited by friendly Indians, who were very often of great assistance to the pioneers. He was for many years a teacher and was one of the best educated men of the day. He was a surveyor and laid out the town site of Mendon, part of which was on his land. He served as an associate judge of the Court of Common Pleas and was twice elected to the Legislature (in 1831 and 1832) from the district composed of the counties of Mercer, Darke, Allen, Putnam, Henry, Paulding and Williams. He was selected to read the bills in the Legislature, owing to his special ability as a reader. He was a very prominent man and his advice was often sought by others, being fre-

quently called upon to aid and assist others in various ways. He was married in Kentucky and came to this country in a covered wagon drawn by a span of oxen. He built one of the first corn-mills in the county, which was about 1835, which mill is still standing. Mr. Hamilton was married May 14, 1820, to Eliza Rhodes, who was born February 28, 1798, and died November 24, 1887, in her 90th year. Justin and Eliza (Rhodes) Hamilton were the parents of eight children, namely: Isabelle, born October 19, 1821, who first married a Mr. Noble, and after his death married Lewis Brewer—both she and Mr. Brewer are now deceased; Justus, February 19, 1823, who married Mary Jane Panabaker—both now deceased; Lucius, born April 2, 1825, and died on a part of the old home place, who married Mary Miller, who now resides in Celina; Charlotta, born August 16, 1829; Justin, deceased, who was born October 27, 1831, married Eliza Snavely, who resides in Mendon; Eliza Lucinda, who married Austin Barber and is now deceased, as is her husband also; Emily, born April 8, 1838, who is the widow of Andrew Snavely—she resides in Center township, aged 68 years; and Almira, born August 28, 1841, who is the widow of John Roether.

SEBASTIAN LEISTNER

Sebastian Leistner, a representative citizen of Rockford, was born in Trenton, Butler County, Ohio, March 1, 1844, and is a son of John Andrew and Barbara (Leistner) Leistner.

John A. Leistner and wife, who were natives of Bavaria, Germany, came to this country when young and settled in Trenton, Butler County, Ohio. They were married in 1836 at Trenton and in 1853 moved to Mercer County, locating in Black Creek township, where Mr. Leistner entered 240 acres of land north of Chattanooga and placed the same under cultivation, making this his place of residence until his death, which occurred in August, 1894. Three sons and one daughter were born to Mr. and Mrs. Leistner: John, a resident of Chattanooga, who is engaged in farming; Barbara, who married William Adams and died October 22, 1892; Andrew, residing in Chattanooga where he owns a farm; and Sebastian, the subject of this sketch. Mrs. Leistner died November 11, 1892.

Sebastian Leistner spent his early childhood days in Trenton, Butler County, Ohio, and when he was nine years old his parents moved to Mercer County, where he was reared and educated. Mr. Leistner offered his service to the government at the outbreak of the Civil War, but was rejected on account of his youth and his inability to pass the physical examination. Mr. Leistner owns two farms in Black Creek township.

RESIDENCE AND FARM BUILDINGS OF CLEMENT VALLANDIGHAM HOOD

Mr. Leistner was married January 13, 1867, to Mary Ann Knight, a daughter of Peter Knight. Her parents, who were natives of Pennsylvania, settled in Trumbull County, Ohio, when she was quite small. Later they entered and settled upon land in Black Creek township, Mercer County, Ohio. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Leistner: Augusta, wife of John L. Davidson, of Van Wert, who is engaged in railroading; Annie E., who married Harry Rutledge and resides on a farm in Black Creek township; and William Andrew, who married Bell Cook and resides in Rockford. Mrs. Leistner died August 21, 1897. In 1899 our subject retired from farm life, taking up his residence in Rockford, where he purchased the house in which he now resides. Recently he built a house on the lot adjoining. Mr. Leistner's second marriage was with Mrs. Mary Williams, a daughter of Joab and Sevilla Borton. She had two children by her first marriage: John Williams, who married Grace Stober and resides in Black Creek township; Ada, who married Clarence Skinner and resides in Lima, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Leistner are both members of the United Brethren Church at Rockford. Politically, he is a Republican.

CLEMENT VALLANDIGHAM HOOD

Clement Vallandigham Hood, a prosperous farmer of Union township, was born June 29, 1863, near Spencerville, Allen County, Ohio, and is a son of George and Elmira (Rider) Hood.

George Hood was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, April 18, 1831, and is still living at the age of 75 years. His parents moved to Lima, Ohio, when there were only a few houses in the place and from there they moved to Spencerville and in 1867 became residents of Van Wert County. His father Robert Hood, grandfather of our subject, died soon after locating in Lima, and his wife died in Spencerville. Robert Hood was the father of seven children: Milton, deceased; Mary L., deceased, who was the wife of George Hutton; Minerva, who married George Lane; Emma, who married August Gilmore; Josephine, deceased, who was the wife of Daniel Heaster; Rose, wife of Isaac Fogel; and George, the father of our subject. George Hood married Elmira Rider, who died in 1873. She was a daughter of Isaac Rider, a native of New York State, who was one of the very earliest settlers of Allen County, residing at Spencerville. George Hood is now residing at Middlepoint, Ohio.

Clement V. Hood received his education in the township schools of Van Wert County, attending school during the winter months and working on his father's farm in the summer. He remained on the farm until he was 21 years of age and then worked on the railroad as a machinist for about eight years. After his marriage, he located in Union township, Mercer County,

where he has since resided on his 100-acre farm. He is classed among Mercer County's best citizens.

Mr. Hood was married November 28, 1891, to Ida Griffin, a daughter of Claudius Griffin, of Union township, a full sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Mr. Hood is a member of the I. O. O. F. lodge at Spencerville. Views of Mr. Hood's residence and farm buildings accompany this sketch.

JAMES PEARSON

James Pearson, one of Washington township's prosperous agriculturists, owns 56 acres of highly cultivated farm land, 22½ acres being located in section 4, and 32½ acres in section 9, Washington township. He was born in East Bradford township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, March 4, 1844, and is a son of James and Sarah (Wagonseller) Pearson.

James Pearson, father of our subject, was of Welsh descent and was a blacksmith by trade, having learned the trade from his father, William Pearson, who was a resident of Chester County, Pennsylvania. James Pearson, as well as his father, died in Chester County.

James Pearson, our subject, was reared in Chester County, Pennsylvania, where he remained until 20 years of age, when he went to Philadelphia and worked at his trade, being a shoemaker. In 1865 he went to Illinois where he worked at his trade for about three years, after which he removed to Wabash County, Indiana, and followed his trade. During his residence in Wabash County, he made a trip to Washington township, Mercer County, Ohio, leaving on September 21, 1869, and while in Washington township was married to Lavina Bastian, a daughter of George Bastian. He moved to Mercer County in 1876, locating in Washington township, where he has since lived, engaged in general farming. Mr. and Mrs. Pearson have had eight children, as follows: Minnie, who married Elmer Day and has three children; Maggie, wife of W. J. Boley; Homer, who married Daisy Edmiston; Lee C.; Lizzie, who teaches school in Liberty township; Luella; Edith and Ivy.

Mr. Pearson is at present clerk of the School Board of Washington township. In 1894 he retired from the office of justice of the peace, after having served 15 years.

E. H. DAVIS

E. H. Davis, a representative agriculturist of Liberty township, where he owns a farm of 65 acres in section 7, on which he located in the fall of

1900, was born in Blackford County, Indiana, October 21, 1866, and is a son of Hugh and Charlotte (Robbins) Davis.

Our subject was reared on his father's farm in Blackford County. His parents were old residents there and their remains rest in that county. His education was obtained in the schools of Jackson township, Blackford County, where he engaged in farming until 1900, when he came to his present farm in Liberty township, Mercer County. His farm consists of 95 acres, as he owns a 30-acre tract in Adams County, Indiana, adjoining his 65 acres in Liberty township.

Mr. Davis was married (first) to Clara Fuqua, who was born in Blackford County, Indiana. She was survived by three children, namely: Cecil and Esta, the latter of whom is the wife of Frederick Kessler of Blackford County; and Clarence M., who died aged two months. Mr. Davis was married (second), December 19, 1900, to Mrs. Laura Gothrup, also of Blackford County, Indiana.

In 1903 the Darby Oil Company began operating for oil and gas on the farm of our subject, and both oil and gas have been found and further development will probably bring Mr. Davis very satisfying returns. Politically Mr. Davis is a Democrat.

GEORGE A. REUTER

George A. Reuter, sole owner and manager of the George A. Reuter sawmill and dealer in hardwood lumber at Fort Recovery, was born in Barry County, Michigan, February 18, 1861, and is a son of John G. and Magdalene (Schmelcher) Reuter, both of whom are still living on a farm in Barry County, Michigan.

George Reuter was reared on his father's farm in Barry County and attended the district schools, later attending a select school for several winters. He took a practical business course in the Grand Rapids Business College, his studies including banking, bookkeeping, steamboating, railroading and general commercial business, graduating in October, 1883. He taught school in Michigan for six years, beginning at the age of 16. His last school was taught during the winter of 1883-84 at Bowne Center, near Grand Rapids, Michigan. In May, 1884, he went to White Cloud, Michigan, and engaged with the Frederick Ramsey Lumber Company, remaining there until the fall of 1885. The last six months of this time he was employed by the successors of Mr. Ramsey, who had died. He then went to Chase, Michigan, and was employed by Dunham, Peters & Company. The first six months with this company he was foreman; he then became bookkeeper and the last year and a half was chief bookkeeper and general superintendent.

In 1889 Mr. Reuter formed a partnership with William E. Wilson and engaged in the sawmill and pine lumber business at Fort Recovery, Ohio. This business was established on May 1st, but as Mr. Reuter was under obligations to his employers he stayed with the firm in Chase, Michigan, until they were able to secure a man to fill his position. In 1903 Messrs. Reuter and Wilson traded their circular sawmill, which stood where the Fort Recovery Lutheran Church now stands to Henry Wuerderman, for the band-mill which stood upon the site now occupied by Mr. Reuter's new mill. This band-mill burned down on June 12, 1906, and Mr. Reuter immediately erected a larger sawmill on the same site and installed new machinery, having been sole owner and manager of the business since 1904, when he and Mr. Wilson dissolved partnership. Mr. Reuter also has other business interests, being one of the largest stockholders and a director of the Fort Recovery Telephone Company, which is owned by local capital. He owns 120 acres of farm land in Recovery township, about four and a half miles east of Fort Recovery. He owns the home farm of 160 acres in Irving township, Barry County, Michigan, where his parents now reside.

Mr. Reuter was married in March, 1888, to Rose Wilson, a sister of his former business partner. They have had three children: Donnel, who is attending the Fort Recovery High School and will graduate in 1907—he attended the summer term at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, in 1906 and thereby gained one year in the High School; Mildred M. and Marguerite.

Mr. Reuter has been secretary of the Fort Recovery Building and Loan Company for the past 16 years. He is a member and for the past three years has been chief of the Board of Deputy State Supervisors of Elections. He is a member and a trustee of Pisgah Congregational Church, of Fort Recovery.

Mr. Reuter has been an active worker in the Masonic order. He is a member of Fort Recovery Lodge, No. 539, F. & A. M.; Celina Chapter, No. 120, R. A. M.; Lima Council, No. 20, R. & S. M.; Ivanhoe Commandery, No. 30, K. T., of Van Wert; and has attained to the 32nd degree in the Scottish Rite, belonging to the Consistory at Toledo. From 1894 to 1905, inclusive (12 years), he served as the worshipful master of Fort Recovery Lodge, declining reelection at the conclusion of his 12th term.

GEORGE W. KRENNING

George W. Krenning, senior member of the firm of Krenning & Son, dealers in dry goods, boots, shoes and general merchandise, at Fort Recovery, is a well known citizen of Mercer County, and one of the leading business

men at Fort Recovery. He was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, May 8, 1854, and is a son of J. H. W. and Anna M. (Kruse) Krenning.

The father of our subject was born in Hanover, Germany, and came to America in young manhood, settling at Cincinnati. There he married Anna M. Kruse and they had six children, namely: B. H. W., of Wytheville, Virginia; Louise, wife of Henry Bosse, of Norwood, a suburb of Cincinnati; Henry R., of Cincinnati; George W., of this sketch; Amelia, wife of Henry Sunderman, of Fort Recovery; and Frederick, who died in infancy.

In 1860 the parents of our subject moved to a farm near Fort Recovery, but five years later returned to Cincinnati, coming back to Mercer County in 1869. For one year the family lived on a farm in Gibson township and then moved to Fort Recovery. There J. H. W. Krenning and his son, B. H. W. Krenning, started a store and woolen mill and this they continued to operate together until 1883, when the stock of store and mill was divided and the mill business was removed to Wytheville, Virginia. Our subject's father died in the fall of 1901.

George W. Krenning was six years old when the family moved first to Fort Recovery and was 15 when the permanent home was established here. His whole business life has been connected with this place.

In 1875 George W. Krenning was married to Harriet T. Campbell, a daughter of Isaac M. and Lydia A. (Hoar) Campbell, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Krenning have three children, viz.: Edna, Alice and George C. The older daughter, Edna, is a graduate of the Fort Recovery High School and Western Oxford College at Oxford, Ohio. For three years she has been a successful teacher at Elyria, Ohio, and is at present a student at Columbia University, New York City. Alice, the second daughter, is the wife of Rev. C. A. Mohr, pastor of the Congregational Church at Silverton, Colorado. George C. is in business with his father, but at present is a student at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio.

Mr. Krenning has always performed the duties of a citizen, but has been too deeply immersed in business to take any very active part in politics. He has served efficiently, however, as a member of the School Board and has been town treasurer. Mr. Krenning and family are all members of the Pisgah Congregational Church at Fort Recovery.

WILLIAM JUSTIN ROETHER.

William Justin Roether, a successful and well-known young agriculturist of Union township, was born in this township on the farm where his mother now lives, the old Roether farm, now known as the Be-

dell farm. He is a son of John and Almira (Hamilton) Roether. A sketch of John Roether, who is now deceased, appears elsewhere in this book.

William Roether attended the township schools and also assisted with the farm work until he was 18 years old. He lived for several years in Center township and in the fall of 1899 moved upon the old Roether farm. Mr. Roether and his brother farmed this place in partnership until the fall of 1905. He now lives on the John Bedell farm in Union township. The farm consists of 80 acres and Mr. Roether has 32 acres of the same in corn, 15 acres in wheat, and 17 acres in oats. He has 93 head of hogs, and never sells his corn but keeps it for feed, considering it a better practice to use it for feed than to sell it. He also has three head of horses and is quite successful as a general farmer, having made what he has by his own energy and industry.

Mr. Roether married Cora Krugh, a daughter of John and Sallie Ann (Johnson) Krugh, of Union township. They have one daughter, who was born August 21, 1906. Politically, Mr. Roether is a Republican.

ANDREW BUEHLER

Andrew Buehler, whose valuable farm of 120 acres is located in two counties, 80 acres in Darke and 40 acres, on which he makes his home. in Granville township, Mercer County, just across the road from the larger portion, was born in Marion township, Mercer County, Ohio, near Chickasaw, and is a son of Raymond and Veronica (Cook) Buehler.

Raymond Buehler was born in Germany and came to America when he was about 11 years of age, accompanying his parents, August and Catherine Buehler. The family settled first at Greenville, Ohio, but later moved to a farm purchased by our subject's father, in Marion township. Subsequently they sold this farm to their son Raymond, and moved to Carthagena, where they died. They had eight children, namely: Raymond, Bernard, John, Joseph, Patrick, Agnes (wife of John Esser), Theresa (wife of John Blotur) and Sophia (wife of Christian Voesey). All have died except Joseph.

Raymond Buehler remained with his parents until his marriage, assisting his father. Then he settled with his wife on the old home place, where Deitrich Buehler, our subject's brother, now lives. At that time little clearing had been done in his neighborhood and game was very abundant in the woods. Deer were plentiful and wild turkeys were to be had for the shooting. Raymond Buehler remained on this farm, clearing it up and developing it, until his death, which occurred January 6, 1880. He was survived by his wife until September 19, 1901.

Raymond Buehler married Veronica Cook, who had come to America

with her parents from Germany. To this marriage 13 children were born, as follows: Theresa, who died aged five years; Elizabeth, who also died aged five years; Wendel and Joseph, both deceased in infancy; Mary, who married Joseph Hess; Caroline; Henry, who married Victoria Miller; Andrew, of this sketch; August, who married Theresa Brunswick; John, who married Frances Rockner; Deitrich, who married Mary Ausman; Veronica, who married Henry Wiel; and Catherine, deceased in 1905, who was the wife of Herman Box.

Andrew Buehler attended the district schools and remained at home assisting his father on the home farm. When his father died, he inherited 80 acres of land in Darke County and when he married he started in to live on his property. He built a log house there, in which he lived for about 20 years. On January 1, 1901, he purchased from his brother-in-law, Frank Rammel, the 40 acres on which is situated his home. As a house was on the place, the family moved into it immediately. Mr. Buehler has greatly improved the property and has remodeled and added to the house, which is a comfortable frame one of six rooms. He carries on general farming and has made a success of it.

On April 20, 1880, Mr. Buehler was married to Mary Rammel, a daughter of Joseph and Anna Mary (Ehrenbeck) Rammel, both of whom were born in Germany and became highly respected residents and substantial farming people of Mercer County. Mr. Rammel died on his farm in Granville township, May 2, 1892, but Mrs. Rammel survives and lives with her son George.

Mr. and Mrs. Buehler have three children, namely: Joseph, born July 2, 1882; William, born October 27, 1883; and Elizabeth, born May 22, 1888. All reside at home and, with their parents, belong to St. Paul's Catholic Church at Sharpsburg.

ORVILLE S. ASHCRAFT

Orville S. Ashcraft, a trustee of Washington township and one of the township's progressive citizens, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits on a well-developed farm situated in section 23, was born in Jay County, Indiana, December 25, 1870, and is a son of Joseph and Julia Ann (Adney) Ashcraft.

Joseph Ashcraft was born on a farm in Jay County, Indiana, and is a son of Daniel Ashcraft, who was born and reared in Coshocton County, Ohio, whence he removed to Jay County, Indiana, when a young man. Joseph Ashcraft, who is now living in retirement, is the father of seven children: William, who is married and resides at Eaton, Indiana; John, who

lives near Lansing, Michigan; Orville S., the subject of this sketch; Stella, who married Isaac Hassen and lives in North Dakota; Olive, wife of Henry Borrell, living in Chesterton, Indiana; Jennie, wife of Arthur Stout, living in Portland, Indiana; and Zelina, unmarried, who lives at home in Jay County, Indiana.

Orville S. Ashcraft was reared on his father's farm in Jay County, and has been engaged in farming all his life with the exception of four years, when he was a rig builder in the oil fields. The summer previous to his marriage, he worked in a large peach orchard on Catawba Island, Lake Erie. Since his marriage he has lived in Washington township, Mercer County, in 1900 moving upon his present farm, which is owned by his father-in-law, J. C. Snyder.

Mr. Ashcraft was married August 19, 1896, to Florence Snyder, a daughter of J. C. Snyder, a full sketch of whom will be found in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Ashcraft are the parents of three children: Forrest Merle; Tereva Eulali; and Elsia Winona. In politics Mr. Ashcraft is identified with the Democratic party and in the spring of 1902 was elected township trustee on the Democratic ticket. He is still serving in this office. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Murphysburg, of which he is also a steward.

AUGUST ONTROP

August Ontrop, a prosperous farmer of Washington township residing on his well-improved and highly cultivated farm of 216 acres, located in section 34, was born May 25, 1849, in Walstedde, Westphalia, Prussia, Germany, and is a son of Matthias and Christina (Kappenberg) Ontrop, both of whom died in Germany.

August Ontrop was the youngest of a family of eight children, and grew to manhood on his father's farm in Germany. At the age of 20 years he enlisted in the German Army and served two years and eight months in the Franco-Prussian War under General Werder, participating in the battles of Strasburg, Schledstadt and New Breisag, passing through all these engagements without receiving an injury. After the war he returned to his father's home, where he remained for about eight months, after which he emigrated to America, leaving his home April 16, 1873, and landed in New York City in the latter part of the same month. He immediately came to Mercer County, where he worked for two years on the farm which he now owns. His brother Anthony came to this country in 1874 and also came to Mercer County and located in Washington township with our subject. Anthony Ontrop married Theresia Tiggeman, who died in 1892; they had

six children: August, deceased; Aloys, deceased; Henry; Stephen; Katie; and August M.

In 1875 August Ontrop and his brother Anthony bought the farm where they had been working and engaged extensively in agricultural operations, carrying on mixed farming. Anthony Ontrop died September 17, 1905, and since his death our subject has been living on the farm with his niece and nephew. Mr. Ontrop has made the greater part of the improvements on the farm, erecting a large frame house and all the other buildings with the exception of the old barn, which was erected by the former owner and still stands.

Mr. Ontrop is a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Recovery township, four miles north of Fort Recovery.

JOHN H. LAUDAHN

JOHN H. LAUDAHN, general merchant and prominent citizen at Hinton, and the owner of a good farm of 40 acres in Liberty township, was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, April 28, 1867, and is a son of John and Sophia (Bader) Laudahn.

Our subject was 15 years of age when he accompanied his parents to Ohio. They resided in Auglaize County from 1872 until 1882, when they came to Mercer County and settled in Liberty township. The father died in 1893, but the mother still survives and resides with her son.

Prior to entering into his mercantile business at Hinton, Mr. Laudahn followed farming. This industry he still carries on in addition to his other business. For some years he was postmaster at this point. He conducts a general store and carries a sufficient stock to fill the demands of local trade.

In 1881, Mr. Laudahn was married to Salena Preshun, and they have five children, namely: Cora Sophia, Fred William, Frank H., Lesetta S. and John P. Politically Mr. Laudahn is a Republican. He belongs to the Lutheran Church.

JOSEPH WIRTZ

JOSEPH WIRTZ, who is engaged in general farming on a fine farm of 119 acres located in section 30, Granville township, was born April 10, 1856, in a log cabin on his father's farm, which he now owns, and is a son of John P. Wirtz, a native of Germany.

John P. Wirtz was reared to manhood in his native land and came to America when 21 years of age in company with Balser Obringer. He first

located in Cincinnati, Ohio, and later went to Covington, Kentucky, where he was engaged for 10 years as a teamster. From there he proceeded to Chickasaw, Mercer County, where he bought land and was later married. About two years later he moved to Granville township and bought 55 acres of farm land from Henry Franklin. He afterwards bought the old Walker place from Henry Romer. He was one of the pioneers of Granville township; at that time there were no sawmills near and wild game was plentiful. He built a log cabin with a split puncheon floor, and it was here that Joseph, the subject of this sketch, was born. John P. Wirtz became the father of three children, as follows: John, who died aged 14 years; Catherine, who died aged 18 years; and Joseph. Mrs. Wirtz, who was Clara Esser in maiden life, died April 12, 1876, and Mr. Wirtz died July 4, 1904.

Joseph Wirtz was reared on his father's farm in Granville township, has always been engaged in agricultural pursuits and has always lived on the farm where he now lives and where he was born; he continued to live on the farm after his marriage and being the only living child fell heir to the farm on the death of his father. He has built a fine, seven-room, frame house on the farm as well as a large barn and other buildings.

Mr. Wirtz was married on June 11, 1880, to Magdalene Bower, a daughter of Jacob and Magdalene (Horning) Bower. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wirtz, namely: Clara, born in October, 1880, who died in childhood; Victoria, born January 27, 1882; Edward, born November 19, 1883; Catherine, born December 23, 1885; Elizabeth, born December 3, 1887; Anna, born March 31, 1890; Jacob, born June 23, 1892; Wilhelm, born May 11, 1895; Rose, born March 8, 1898; and Albert, born October 7, 1901, who died in infancy. Mr. Wirtz at one time had nine oil-wells in operation on his place. He was road supervisor for one term, and served on the School Board for a number of years. He is a member of St. Wendelin's Catholic Church at Wendelin.

Jacob Bower, the father of Mrs. Wirtz, was born in Germany, where he was reared to manhood, after which he engaged in farming. He was married to Magdalene Horning and they had eight children, three of whom were born in Germany: Magdalene (Mrs. Wirtz), born February 22, 1859; Jacob, who married Elizabeth Hoening and lives at Chattanooga; Matilda, who died aged 18 years; Elizabeth, who died in infancy; Fred, who died in childhood; Mrs. Louise Schwirking, who lives at Cranberry Prairie; Philip, who married Anna Schultz and resides at St. Marys, Ohio; and August, living at St. Marys, who married Blanch Fable. Mrs. Wirtz was eight years old when her parents came to this country and settled at Cranberry Prairie. She well remembers when her uncle was obliged to carry her about two miles through the swamp up to his boot-tops. They lived for

five years at Cranberry Prairie, then moved to St. Henry, remaining there for three years. They also resided at Wendelin for eight years, after which they returned to Cranberry Prairie, where her father retired, and where he is still living. Mrs. Bowers died December 7, 1904.

WILLIAM ADDISON HAMILTON

William Addison Hamilton, a posperous citizen of Union township, was born November 23, 1857, half a mile east of his present well-improved farm of 78 acres, and is a son of Hugh and Angeline (Dobson) Hamilton.

The Hamilton family came originally from Ireland to New England, although the earliest records made it of Scotch extraction. The name is found among the early men of affairs in the colonies and was borne by both privates and officers in the Revolutionary and in the Civil War. The great-grandfather of William A. Hamilton lived and died near Rochester, New York.

William Hamilton, the paternal grandfather, was one of the very early settlers of Union township, Mercer County, coming in 1826. He returned to New York and married Charlotta Elmira Abbey, who was born in 1804 in Canandaigua, New York, and in 1828 they came to Union township, Mercer County, Ohio, settling in section 26, on Eight-Mile Creek. Mr. Hamilton cleared up a farm on which he resided for some years and then moved to Mendon, embarking in the mercantile business. Subsequently he returned to the farm and there the remaining years of his life were spent. At one time he owned 400 acres of land; he gave his children farms averaging from 40 to 80 acres when they married. The children of William and Charlotta Elmira Hamilton were: Polly Ann, who married James Shepherd, of Union township; Lois, who married Cyrus Hussey and resides in Auglaize County; Hugh, the father of our subject; Sallie, who married Warren Barber, an old resident of Union township, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work; Isabelle, who married John A. Murlin, of Mendon; Susan, who died aged 16 years, in 1864; William, who died in 1896 in Union township, being survived by his widow, who lives in this township; and several children that died in infancy.

Hugh Hamilton, father of our subject, was born in Union township, Mercer County, Ohio, in 1832, half a mile north of where William A. Hamilton lives. There he died in 1900 at the age of 68 years. In January, 1857, he married Angeline Dobson, who was born in 1836 and still survives. She is a daughter of Joseph A. and Eliza (Ribkey) Dobson, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania. His father, William Dobson,

came from England. He had one son and two daughters, the latter of whom were born in England. His son, Joseph A., married Eliza Ribkey, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, whence he removed to Allegheny County, thence to Meigs County, Ohio, from there to Athens County, then to Auglaize County, and in 1882 to Mercer County, where both he and his wife died; the former, born in November, 1812, died in 1890, aged 78 years, and the latter, born in 1816, died in 1884.

The children born to Joseph A. and Eliza Dobson were: Mary Etta, who married Thomas Hays and moved to Wisconsin, where both died; Angeline, the mother of our subject; Joseph, who died aged 20 years; Louise, who married John Brewer, lived at Paulding, Ohio, and died in 1902; Catherine, who married Hamilton Noble and lives in Oklahoma; Annie, who married N. T. Griffin, resided in Mercer County and died in 1905; F. P., who is engaged in a real estate business at Denver, Colorado; William H., also a resident of Denver; Elias, who died aged 24 years; and a babe deceased in infancy.

The children of Hugh and Angeline (Dobson) Hamilton were: William Addison, of this sketch; Mary Etta, who married Thomas E. Upton, and died in 1892, leaving four children; and Joseph, who, prior to his marriage was a boot and shoe dealer at Mendon. Joseph Hamilton now resides with his venerable mother. He married Elizabeth Bevan, a daughter of John Bevan, of Union township. They have three children, one of whom, Hugh, makes his home with his uncle, William Addison, the subject of this sketch.

William Addison Hamilton attended the township schools and also the Ohio Normal University at Ada, and then taught school for several years in Union township. He was reared a practical farmer and has always been interested in agricultural pursuits. He has resided on his present farm since 1888.

In 1888 he was married to Julia A. Nottingham, a daughter of William and Ann (Nickel) Nottingham, both residents of Center township. William Nottingham was born in the eastern part of West Virginia and is a son of George Nottingham, who came to Ohio when William was eight years of age and settled near St. Marys, in Auglaize County. The latter recently visited his old home in West Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Nottingham had seven children, namely: William M., who is engaged in the marble business at Cleveland, Ohio; Julia A., wife of our subject; Nettie, wife of James Staeger, living near Celina; Louella, living at home; Frank, a driller and horseman, residing at Mendon; Leroy, who lives on the farm in Center township; and George, unmarried, who farms for his father in Center township.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton have had five children, namely: Irene, Gail, Louise, Julia Etta and Mary Letha, all at home. In his political preference he is a Republican, but occasions arise when he casts his vote for the man rather than for the party. He is a good citizen himself and desires to see men in office who will be sure to carry out the laws of the land without fear or favor.

MOSES SILAS HAMILTON

Moses Silas Hamilton, a successful farmer and highly esteemed citizen of Center township, residing on his farm of 40 acres in section 4, was born October 21, 1859, and is a son of Justus and Mary Jane (Panabaker) Hamilton and a grandson of Justin and Eliza (Rhodes) Hamilton.

Justin Hamilton, who was one of the pioneers of this section of Ohio, located in Union township, Mercer County, as early as 1822.

Justus Hamilton, the father of our subject, was born February 19, 1820, and was reared in Mercer County, where his father was one of the very earliest settlers. He married Mary Jane Panabaker, and they became the parents of eight children: Almira; Isabelle; Hugh L.; William A.; Jennie; Hattie; Charles J.; and Moses Silas, the subject of this sketch.

Moses S. Hamilton was born on the farm in Center township where he now resides and received most of his education in the schools of Celina, attending until 19 years of age. After leaving school, he moved back to the old home farm in Center township and engaged in farming. Mr. Hamilton has always been engaged in agricultural pursuits except for a period of 10 years when he lived in Mendon, where he purchased a home and was engaged in contracting and building, working throughout Mercer County. He erected buildings in St. Marys, Auglaize County, and in Celina, Mendon and other places in Mercer County. Mr. Hamilton began life almost wholly upon his own resources, having originally a small farm of 20 acres, which he spent in caring for himself and son after the death of his first wife. He was first married in 1879 to Frona Belle Dutton, a daughter of James and Sarah Dutton. Mrs. Hamilton died in 1892. One son was born to this union, Lee Ivan, in 1880. Lee Ivan resides in Celina and is employed as a mail carrier on Rural Route No. 3; he married Ada Hall, a daughter of Curtis Hall of Neptune, and has two children: Juanita and Mildred.

Mr. Hamilton was married in 1894 to Mary Elizabeth Davis, a daughter of Elihu and Ellen Jane (Harner) Davis. Three children were born to the second union: Garret Trevor, Vera Ada and Anna Jane, all of whom are living. The parents of Mrs. Hamilton reside on a farm in section 16, Center township, the father being in his 76th year and the mother in her

78th year. Mrs. Davis and the father of our subject were children together and grew up in the same neighborhood. Michael Harner, the maternal grandfather of Mrs. Hamilton, located in Union township, Mercer County, soon after Justin Hamilton, the grandfather of Mr. Hamilton, came here—both were among the pioneers of the county.

Mr. Hamilton now owns a fine farm and in 1903 built a very attractive home on the place. Politically he is a Republican. He is a man of enterprise and public spirit and is recognized as one of the county's best citizens.

WILLIAM HENRY LOWRY

William Henry Lowry, a well-known business man of Fort Recovery, was born in Clark County, Ohio, near Springfield, April 1, 1856, and is a son of Aaron Morton and Elizabeth (Byrely) Lowry.

Aaron Morton Lowry, who was a native of New York State, came to Clark County, Ohio, with his father, Benjamin Lowry, when a boy. Benjamin Lowry moved to Mercer County with his family in 1860 and settled on a farm in Gibson township, where he still resides. Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Morton Lowry became the parents of three children, namely: William Henry, the subject of this sketch; Leslie, who lives in Gibson township, and Elmaretta, who married Charles Hastings and lives in Merritt, Washington.

William Henry Lowry came to Gibson township, Mercer County, Ohio, with his parents when five years old. Here he was reared, obtaining his education in the district schools. In 1884 Mr. Lowry moved to Fort Recovery, where he has been engaged in the live-stock business, buying, selling and shipping stock. He is also a contractor, building gravel roads and is now engaged in building 24 miles of road in Wells County, Indiana. Mr. Lowry owns a great deal of land, having 330 acres of farm land in three different counties—Mercer and Darke counties, Ohio, and Jay County, Indiana. Mr. Lowry resides in a large brick house in Fort Recovery, which he erected in 1896, and where he has since made his home. He has been married twice; first, in 1880, to Anna Hunter, a daughter of Robert Hunter; they had one child, Harry. Mrs. Lowry died in 1883. His second marriage took place in November, 1890, to Katherine Flaherty, a daughter of Thomas Flaherty. They have had two children: Donna and Victor.

In 1893 Mr. Lowry was elected county commissioner on the Independent ticket. He was nominated against his wishes and made no fight to win the office, but was elected and served three years. He is a Mason and is a member of Portland (Indiana) Lodge, B. P. O. E.

JACOB J. BAKER

JACOB J. BAKER, deceased, was one of the leading citizens and honorable and respected men of Liberty township, where his death occurred on June 6, 1889. He was born in Shelby County, Ohio, April 17, 1840, and was a son of John and Barbara (Whiteman) Baker.

The parents of Mr. Baker, who were natives of Germany, came to America and lived in Shelby County, Ohio, until 1850, when they removed to Mercer County, where they became settlers in Black Creek township.

In the latter, Jacob J. Baker completed his education in the district schools. He remained in the same vicinity until 1865, when he removed to Liberty township, where he engaged in farming, having an estate of 153 acres. In addition to farming he went into the sawmill business, in partnership with the late Adam Bollenbacher and the late William Gehm. For many years he was deeply interested in the lumber business and was a practical worker in his mill. It was while engaged in duties pertaining to this work that he met a tragic death, accidentally falling in the way of the circular saw, injuries being inflicted before he could be rescued that caused his death. It was a time of mourning all over the township, for Mr. Baker was a man who was honored and respected by everybody. The deepest sympathy was felt for his bereaved family to whom he had been a loving and beloved husband and father.

On June 13, 1863, Mr. Baker was united in marriage with Caroline Bollenbacher, who was born June 1, 1842, and is a daughter of George and Henrietta (Alt) Bollenbacher. The father of Mrs. Baker was a man of family in Germany when he decided to emigrate to America, Mrs. Baker being then 10 years old. They were early settlers in Liberty township and Mrs. Baker recalls many interesting events of pioneer life. Both parents died in Liberty township, but three brothers and one sister of Mrs. Baker still survive, as follows: George, Jacob and Charles, all of Liberty township; and Catherine, wife of Ferdinand Kable, of Liberty township.

The children born to our subject and wife were as follows: Charles W., of Black Creek township; Annie H., wife of William Rothhaar, of Dayton, Ohio; Lewis, of Black Creek township; Caroline C., wife of Christian Stuckey, of Adams County, Indiana; Mary C., wife of Frederick Stuckey, of Black Creek township; Lydia P., wife of George Rothhaar, of Liberty township; Jacob A., Henry C. and Theobald A., all of Liberty township; Hulda L., wife of Albert German, of Van Wert County; Thedona D., wife of William German, of Van Wert County; and Amelia M., wife of Michael Linn, of Liberty township. Mrs. Baker has 26 grandchildren.

Mr. Baker was a consistent member of St. Paul's German Evangelical

Church, in which he took a prominent part. Mrs. Baker is also a member of this church and belongs to the Ladies' Aid Society.

SEBASTIAN LAUBER

Sebastian Lauber, a representative farmer and most worthy citizen of Granville township, owns a fine farm of 98 acres situated in section 19. Mr. Lauber was born April 20, 1839, in Germany, and is a son of John and Catherine Lauber.

The parents of Mr. Lauber emigrated from Germany in 1847, landing at New York City. Their objective point was Mercer County, Ohio, and they came here by way of Buffalo and Toledo, taking passage on the new canal to Minster. There they secured the assistance of Liebolt Stelzer, whose brother was one of the three first settlers at St. Johns. The Laubers reached their destination safely, in the farm wagon of Mr. Stelzer, and the father soon built a little log hut in the midst of the woods, three-fourths of a mile east of Cassella, which served as a shelter at night. While not clearing his land, John Lauber and sons secured game for the family larder, deer and squirrel being very plentiful. Our subject recalls catching a young deer and taming it so that it became a household pet.

At a later date the father built a larger and more comfortable log house. This is still standing and is the oldest log structure left in the county. For a long time pioneer conditions prevailed. There were no roads, no bridges and no mills within a reasonable distance. The corn which, with game, made up the principal food of the family, was ground in a mortar formed of a hollow stump. For a long time there was no variety in their fare and often the amount was scanty, but Mr. Lauber can look back to a happy childhood, which certainly was a healthy one. The father died on this farm in 1874, aged 66 years, and the mother in 1884, aged 73 years. They had eight children, four of whom were born in Germany and four in America, all surviving and being as follows: Liebolt, living in Missouri, who married Julia Keble; Sebastian; Sophronia, who married Killian Cushman and lives at Piqua, Ohio; Catherine, who married August Lechner and lives in Missouri; Sophia, widow of Nicholas Jacobs, living in Cincinnati; Jacob, unmarried; Christina, unmarried; and Valentine, who married Lettie Garver and lives at Celina.

Sebastian Lauber was eight years old when his parents came to America and he has lived in Mercer County ever since 1847. While agriculture has been his main business in life, Mr. Lauber has been engaged in various enterprises which have proven generally successful. In 1869 he decided to

JOHN JUDSON CARMICHAEL MRS. BESSIE A. PICHON VIRGIL A. CARMICHAEL FRANK F. HONE MRS. ROSA M. MARTIN CHARLES MARTIN
MRS. ARAMINTA B. CHENEY JOHN D. CHENEY MRS. SARAH J. (DRUMM) CARMICHAEL THOMAS J. CARMICHAEL MRS. ANNIE A. HONE

open a general store at Wendelin and, on credit, bought $3,000 worth of goods at Dayton, hauling them himself all the distance as there was no railroad. He settled up with his creditors according to contract, but on January 2, 1870, his store was set on fire by a rough gang of the locality and he lost his whole stock. His credit was so good that offers were made to back him with another stock. He once ran a blacksmith shop at Piqua and does all his own work in that line.

From 1873 until 1877, Mr. Lauber operated a sawmill at Wendelin and made his shingles and flooring. In 1877 he traded a third interest in his saw-mill for a lot and building in Fort Recovery and another third for his present farm, then owned by Joseph Robbins. He was also in the oil business and now owns a string of tools and has two wells on his place. Mr. Lauber settled on this farm, which was the old Robbins place, in 1883. The large brick residence of eight rooms had been built in 1871; the house stands on the Lauber turnpike and is beautifully sheltered from the highway by an immense willow tree. In addition to farming, Mr. Lauber owns and runs a threshing machine.

In September, 1871, Mr. Lauber married Mary Poepner, and they have 10 children, namely: Catherine; Peter; August, who married and settled in Indiana; Frank; Rose, who married Henry Gardner, the ceremony taking place at St. Wendelin's Catholic Church, on August 30, 1906; and Lena, John, Anna, Joseph and Pherona. The family belong to the Catholic Church. Mr. Lauber has always taken a good citizen's interest in township matters and has cast his vote for men who in his opinion have been qualified to carry out the laws. He has served as treasurer of the School Board and was turnpike commissioner when the Lauber turnpike was built in 1887.

THOMAS J. CARMICHAEL

Thomas J. Carmichael, whose well-improved, valuable farm of 120 acres is situated in section 12, Washington township, was born in Muskingum County, Ohio, May 22, 1843, and is a son of Thomas and Barbara (Smith) Carmichael.

Thomas Carmichael, who was a native of Pennsylvania, came to Ohio as a young man, settling first in Licking County, where he engaged in farming. Later he moved to Muskingum County, but subsequently returned to Licking County. He married Barbara Smith, who died in 1868.

Thomas J. Carmichael was reared on his father's farm in Licking County. In 1862, when 20 years of age, he enlisted for service in the Civil War, entering Company F, 95th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., in which he served until Janu-

ary, 1864. His regiment was with the army in Middle Tennessee, under Gen. U. S. Grant, and he participated in a number of serious battles and severe skirmishes. At the battle of Richmond, Kentucky, he was not only severely injured in the back, but was captured by Gen. Kirby Smith's soldiers and was imprisoned at Richmond, Kentucky. His wounds were such that he was soon paroled and he entered the hospital at Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, where he was confined from September, 1862, until January 12, 1864, when he was discharged on account of disability received in the line of duty a most honorable distinction. He was the musician of the company, playing the drum.

Upon his return to Licking County, Mr. Carmichael engaged in farming, and after his marriage, in 1867, moved to Delaware County, Ohio, leasing a farm. In the spring of 1868 he bought his present farm but did not move on it until 1874. This land was covered with timber, which Mr. Carmichael has cleared off. His first residence was burned in 1895, the present comfortable one taking its place. In 1895 he bought 60 acres adjoining his place, but this property he sold to advantage in 1902.

In 1867 Mr. Carmichael was married to Sarah J. Drumm, a daughter of Peter Drumm, a prominent farmer who owned an adjoining farm to that of Thomas Carmichael, in Licking County. Mr. and Mrs. Carmichael have six children, namely: Araminta B., who married John D. Cheney, a grocer of Hartford City, Indiana, and has four children; Annie A., who married Frank F. Hone, conducting a transfer business at Hartford City, Indiana, and has three children; Rosa M., who married Charles Martin, a blacksmith of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and has four children; John Judson, living at home, who married Nancy Smith; Bessie A., who married Claude Pichon, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and has two children; and Virgil A., working in a glass factory at Hartford City, Indiana.

Mr. Carmichael is a member of the Christian Church. For 40 years he has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He belongs also to the Grand Army of the Republic. A group picture of the Carmichael family accompanies this sketch.

DAVID SCHROYER

David Schroyer, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Washington township, owns 135 acres of fine land situated as follows: 80 acres in section 4, Washington township, upon which he lives and 35 acres in section 3, while the 20-acre farm in section 9 is owned by his wife. He was

born July 26, 1855, in Washington township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of George and Mahala (Harrod) Schroyer.

George Schroyer was born in Butler County, Ohio, and was between 19 and 20 years of age when he moved to Mercer County with his father, Nicholas Schroyer. He has since lived on the land which his father bought upon locating in the county. He married Mahala Harrod, a daughter of David Harrod, of Washington township, and they had eight children, of whom David was the third child.

David Schroyer was reared on his father's farm in Washington township and received his education in the district schools. He has always been engaged in farming, and with the exception of the first two years following his marriage has always resided in Washington township, having lived on this farm since 1879. His father gave him his first 40 acres, all timberland, and he later bought the land in section 3, and in the spring of 1905 bought 40 acres adjoining his land in section 4. In the spring of 1879 he erected a large frame house, and in 1888 built a substantial barn.

Mr. Schroyer was married in 1877 to Mary Powell, a daughter of Samuel Powell, and they have had five children: Myrtle Louella, who married Frank Stillbarger, resides three miles west of Celina in Jefferson township and has two children—William, and Carrie Evaline; Albert Clayton, who married Rhoda Halterman and lives on a part of his father's farm; Lucy Mahala, who married Mark C. Gray, of Washington township; Alice May and Cora Dell. Mr. Schroyer is connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church.

DANIEL EVI BOLEY

Daniel Evi Boley, who is engaged in general farming and stock-raising on a farm of 120 acres located in section 14, Washington township, was born October 13, 1873, and is a son of John and Catherine (Ammon) Boley.

John Boley was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and was a son of John Boley, who moved to Mahoning County, Ohio, with his father, when about 17 years old. The latter bought a farm in Mahoning County on which he lived until his death. In 1837, John Boley, Jr., moved from Mahoning to Mercer County and located on a farm of 320 acres, which he had entered three years before. The land was entirely covered with timber and in 1835, before moving to the county, he hired men to clear 10 acres of the land and to erect a log cabin. In 1836 he was married (first) in Mahoning County. His wife died in Mercer County about 1857, leaving one son, Michael, who died three months after the death of his mother, aged 19 years. In 1866 Mr. Boley was married (second) to Catherine Ammon, who was a daughter of William

Ammon, one of the early settlers of Mercer County, who moved from Mahoning County in 1840. Mr. Boley had three children by his second marriage: William John, of Washington township; Catherine, wife of Thomas Scott, of Washington township; and Daniel Evi. At the time of his death in August, 1896, Mr. Boley was one of the wealthiest farmers of Washington township. Mrs. Boley died March 16, 1906, at the age of 68 years.

Daniel Evi Boley was reared and educated in Washington township and has always been engaged in agricultural pursuits. The farm on which he resides is part of the home farm, which was originally entered by his father. Since 1901 Mr. Boley has been interested in raising Poland-China hogs; he also raises a great many sheep.

Mr. Boley was married August 29, 1897, to Mazzie Portz, who is a daughter of Peter and Katie (Gibson) Portz. Peter Portz was born in Prussia, September 11, 1847, and located in Washington township, Mercer County, in the spring of 1875. During the War of the Rebellion he was a soldier in the Union Army, having run away from home at the age of 15 years, in order to enlist. His father brought him home again, but he ran away the second time and served until 1864, when he was honorably discharged. In May, 1876, he married (first) Catherine Gibson, of Fort Recovery, and they had three children: Ottie, a resident of Charleston, West Virgina; Mazzie; and James, of Charleston, West Virginia. Mrs. Portz died January 29, 1884, when Mrs. Boley was a small child. Mr. Portz was married (second) to Amanda Arbaugh, and they had five children. He formerly operated a general store at Macedon, Washington township, but lately sold out and is now a resident of Portland, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Boley have three children: Clyde, Carl and Alice.

JOHN A. HUNTER

John A. Hunter, attorney-at-law at Fort Recovery, is serving his second term as mayor of the village, of which he is one of the best known citizens. He was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, May 19, 1844, and is a son of Robert and Nancy (Alexander) Hunter.

Robert Hunter, father of Mayor Hunter, removed from Fairfield to Mercer County, Ohio, in 1846, settling on a farm in Gibson township, this portion of the county then being included in Darke County.

John A. Hunter's boyhood and youth were spent in Gibson township, where he attended the public schools. Later he attended Liber College, in Jay County, Indiana, and subsequently taught school for three years in Gibson township, and two years in Jay County, Indiana. In 1870 Mr. Hunter moved to Bradford, Miami County, Ohio, where he embarked in a grocery business

and later carried on a grain business. For four years he also conducted a boot and shoe store and became one of the leading men of the town serving for two years as its mayor. He studied law while living at Bradford, under Ahijah Jones, a well-known practitioner there, and was admitted to the bar in January, 1887. He served for 11 years as justice of the peace of Adams township, Darke County, Ohio. In 1889 he located at Fort Recovery and immediately became a man of prominence and usefulness here. In 1902 he was elected mayor and in 1905 he was again so honored by his fellow citizens.

Mr. Hunter has always been a loyal, public-spirited citizen. During the Civil War, in 1864, he enlisted in Company H, 152nd Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., as a private and served until the close of the war. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic post at Fort Recovery.

On May 19, 1869, Mr. Hunter was married to Martha A. Bailey, a daughter of Hiram Bailey, and they have three children, namely: Ella, who is the wife of K. I. Perkey, of Boise City, Idaho; and they have one child, Esther L.; Austin, who married Lula Coover, of Napoleon, Ohio, resides at Indianapolis, Indiana, and has one child, Frances; and Esther, who married Joseph E. Newcomer and has one child, Mary Lucile.

Mr. Hunter is a member of the Fort Recovery Presbyterian Church and is the church treasurer. He is a citizen who performs with credit to himself and with satisfaction to others, the duties and obligations imposed upon him and his administration of office has been entirely along the lines of temperance and morality.

CHARLES JUSTUS HAMILTON

Charles Justus Hamilton, a prominent farmer of Center township, who owns a well-improved farm of 80 acres located in section 4, was born December 21, 1857, in this township on the farm where he now resides, and is a son of Justus and Mary Jane (Panabaker) Hamilton.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Hon. Justin Hamilton, was born in New York State and located in Union township, Mercer County, in 1822. Previous to this he had lived for a time in Kentucky. When he came to Mercer County, the Indians camped on his land and many times aided him in various ways. He was one of the first surveyors in Mercer County. He owned a large body of land here, located on Twelve-Mile Creek, one mile and a half southwest of Mendon. He owned the greater part of the land around Mendon, and surveyed the site of that town and platted it. He was a member for two terms of the Ohio House of Representatives, representing the counties of Mercer, Darke, Allen, Putnam, Henry, Paulding and Williams. Owing to his special ability as a reader, he was selected to read many bills before the

Legislature. He was one of the foremost citizens of the county in that early day and was a leader among men, his advice often being sought by his fellow-citizens. He married Eliza Rhodes, of Kentucky, and they had eight children: Isabelle, who married (first) a Mr. Noble and after his death Lewis Brewer, of Auglaize County, in which county she died; Justus, father of our subject; Lucius, who married Mary Miller and settled on part of the old home place, where he died; Charlotta; Justin, who married Eliza Snavely, and lived and died on that part of the home place where the father first settled; Emily, a resident of Center township, who is the widow of Andrew Snavely; Eliza Lucinda, who married Austin Barber and resided in Auglaize County—both now deceased; and Almira, a resident of Union township, who is the widow of the late John Roether.

The maternal grandfather of our subject was Adam Panabaker, a native of Virginia, who emigrated to Piqua, Miami County, Ohio, where he was engaged for several years in the milling business. From there he moved to Mercer County, locating in Union township, where he remained until the time of his death, which occurred during the progress of the Civil War at the age of 75 years. He was the father of two daughters and one son: William, who served through the Mexican War, after which he returned to Illinois, where he lived until his death; Rebecca Panabaker, wife of Dr. Cyrenius Elliott, who located in Perry County and engaged in the practice of his profession until his death, which occurred at an advanced age; and Mary Jane, the mother of our subject.

Justus Hamilton was born in Kentucky, February 19, 1820, and came to Mercer County with his parents in an ox-cart when nine months old. He served one year during the Civil War in the 46th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., and participated in a number of severe engagements. He married Mary Jane Panabaker, who was a native of Virginia, and they became the parents of four sons and four daughters: Almira, died when about 23 years of age; Isabelle, who married George Wells, a resident of Auglaize County, and died in April, 1905, at St. Marys, where they were then residing; Hugh L., one of the wealthiest farmers of Union township, who married Lydia Patterson, and after her death married Martha Brown—he was a soldier in the Civil War; William A., who married Almeda Rittenhouse, of Michigan, and is now a resident of Big Rapids, Michigan; Jennie, who married P. M. Harris and lives at Rockford; Hattie, who married Adolph Gilberg, editor of the Celina *Observer;* Charles Justus, the subject of this sketch; and Moses Silas, residing on his farm in Center township, who first married Frona Belle Dutton, a daughter of James Dutton, and after her death married Lizzie Davis.

Charles Justus Hamilton was reared on his father's farm in Center township, but later attended school in Celina whither his father removed in order

to educate his children, and where he owned and operated a tannery for a time. He attended school with Stephen A. Armstrong, C. G. O. and Henry A. Miller, Charles M. LeBlond and others of Celina, prominent in the professional and business worlds. He has lived continuously in Center township since his marriage, with the exception of four years spent in Mendon and one year in Celina.

Mr. Hamilton was married, November 12, 1876, to Laura Anderson, a daughter of Joseph and Rebecca (Tarnell) Anderson and a native of Indiana, having been born near St. Joseph. The mother of Mrs. Hamilton has been dead for some years; her father, who is a native of Pennsylvania, is still living at the age of 77 years, residing at Mendon—after the death of his first wife, Mrs. Hamilton's mother, Mr. Anderson married Nettie Blake, of Celina. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton, of whom the eldest died in infancy. The others are as follows: Ray, deceased at the age of eight months; Oral, who married John Severns, resides at Casey, Illinois, where Mr. Severns is engaged in the oil business, and has three children, two boys and one daughter—Beryl, Vaughn and Leo; Ethel, who married Oscar Carter, a farmer of Davidson, Canada, who raises as much as 6,000 bushels of wheat per year; Georgia, who married Perry Miller, resides at Westfield, Illinois, where Mr. Miller is in the oil business, and has one child, Orval; and Ford, who lives at home and assists in the work on the farm.

Mr. Hamilton is a member of Mendon Lodge, No. 750, I. O. O. F., and Mendon Lodge, No. 586, F. & A. M. Politically, he is a Republican.

EDWARD VOKE

Edward Voke, one of the representative and successful business men of Mendon, cashier of the Mendon Bank, was born October 31, 1869, at Ashland, Ashland County, Ohio, and is a son of Edward Lewis and Theresa (Farwell) Voke.

Edward Voke, the paternal great-grandfather, came to America soon after his son Edward, with whom he made his home until his death in 1873. This branch of the Voke family can be traced as far back as the year 1720.

Edward Voke, the paternal grandfather, was born in Portsmouth, England, in 1810, and came to the United States in 1831. He first located at Rochester, New York, where he clerked in a general store for a time and then moved to Niagara County, where he purchased a farm and engaged in general farming for 30 years. When he retired from farm life, he moved to Spencerport, New York, where he remained until the time of his death in 1900, at the advanced age of 90 years. He was the father of three children: Edward L.;

Mary Jane, who married John Strong and is a resident of Spencerport, New York; and Laura, deceased.

Edward L. Voke was a native of Hartland, Genesee County, New York, and was born December 21, 1833, and died January 17, 1898. He moved to Mercer County, Ohio, in 1880 and located at Shane's Crossing (now Rockford), where he remained two years and later moved to a farm in Dublin township where he resided until his death. He married Theresa Farwell, who was born July 26, 1844, in Genesee County, New York, and is at present a resident of Columbus, Ohio. Four children were born to them, as follows: Lewis F., who is a practicing physician at Columbus; Edward; and Mabel and Cora, who reside with their mother. Mr. and Mrs. Voke were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Edward Voke was reared in his native township and attended the Rockford High School, completing the course when 19 years old. He then taught school for three years, one year in Dublin township and two years at Rockford. Mr. Voke was then engaged in farming until 1902 when he moved to Mendon and organized the Mendon Bank, with a capital stock of $10,000, of which Lewis F. Voke is president and Edward Voke is cashier. The Mendon Bank is one of the successful financial institutions of Mercer County, has a strong patronage, and handles practically all of the business of the northeastern section of the county. It opened for business February 4, 1902. The Bank is situated in a very attractive building which was erected in 1901. Mr. Voke has other business interests, owning with his brother a three-fourths interest in an elevator at Monticello, Ohio, under the firm name of Voke Brothers & Clay. The firm was organized in 1903 and the elevator was constructed the same year. Mr. Voke is recognized as one of the leading and successful business men of Mercer County.

Mr. Voke was married June 24, 1894, to Elta Sidenbender, a daughter of Joseph and Mary Sidenbender, of Rockford, Mercer County. She was born in Mercer County. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Voke: Myron Van, Albert F., Mary and Carl. Mr. Voke is a member of the Mendon Lodge, No. 586, F. & A. M., and also belongs to the Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias lodges at Mendon. Politically, he is a Democrat.

REV. SAMUEL EGGER

Rev. Samuel Egger is the beloved pastor of St. Paul's German Evangelical Church, which is situated in Liberty township, near Chattanooga. He was born in Monroe County, Ohio, March 11, 1857, and is a son of Samuel and Magdalena (Christman) Egger.

The parents of Mr. Egger were early settlers in Monroe County, where they were well known. The father, who was a native of New Jersey, had enjoyed educational advantages in the East.

Samuel Egger secured his primary education in the public schools of Monroe County. After deciding to enter upon a life of religious work, he entered the Elmhurst Theological Seminary, which institution is located some 16 miles west of Chicago, Illinois, where he continued under theological instruction for the subsequent four years. He next attended Eden College of the German Evangelical Synod of North America, which is located in St. Louis, Missouri, where he was graduated in 1882, after a course of close study covering three years.

In the year of his graduation, Mr. Egger accepted the pastorate of St. Paul's German Evangelical Church, and remained in charge for six years, when he was transferred to St. Paul's Evangelical Church at Woodsfield, Monroe County. He remained there almost six years, but in 1894 he returned to Liberty township and resumed his old pleasant relations with the congregation of St. Paul's. To some extent, Mr. Egger is interested also in agriculture, as he owns a good farm of 80 acres in this vicinity.

Mr. Egger was married on October 26, 1882, to Mary Buckio, who was born in Monroe County, Ohio. Of their eight children, six survive, as follows: Leivis S., Freda B., Simeon S., Frank T., Lovina A. and Cornelius.

Mr. Egger is one of the leading ministers of his church in Mercer County. He possesses the power to make the truth known and it is largely due to his influence that so many of the younger generation still cling to the church of their forefathers. In every walk of life he has friends and to all he is loyal in time of trouble, ministering as becomes a pious Christian leader.

WALTER NIMROD MONROE

Walter Nimrod Monroe, justice of the peace of Franklin township, and a prominent resident of Montezuma, belongs to one of the early settled families of this town, in fact, he was born on the present site of Montezuma, which was then a part of his father's farm, on July 26, 1867. He is a son of James Henry and Elizabeth A. (Duffy) Monroe.

James Henry Monroe was born in Pennsylvania and accompanied his parents, who were Virginians, to Shelby County, Ohio, where the father bought a farm along the Miami and Erie Canal. The grandfather of our subject had 17 children, the survivors being: Jonathan; Lyde, widow of Samuel Hunt, residing in Shelby County; Tawny, who is a resident of Jefferson township, Mercer County; and Josephine, who married Coleman Baker, of Shelby County.

James Henry Monroe grew to manhood in Shelby County, where he married Elizabeth A. Duffy. They settled on a farm in that county where they lived until 1856, when Mr. Monroe moved to Franklin township, Mercer County. At that time a few scattered houses made up what is now the prosperous town of Montezuma and Mr. Monroe's farm included almost all of the present site. James H. Monroe engaged in farming until he retired from active life. His death occurred on November 20, 1892. His children were: David L. and James Francis, born in Shelby County, and Joseph Henry, Martha, Mary E. and Walter Nimrod, who were born in Mercer County. David L. married (first) Nancy Gray and after her death married (second) Bertha Swartz; he and his second wife are both deceased; James Francis married Sarah Cain and lives in Franklin township; Joseph Henry, died unmarried, in 1903, Martha died in infancy, Mary E. is the wife of Elias Stafford, of Montezuma.

Walter N. Monroe spent his boyhood on the farm which now forms a part of his village home. This property he purchased from his brother. He has been one of the leading citizens of Montezuma almost since he attained manhood, having served the town as mayor for some five years, as councilman for four years, and in 1897 he was appointed a justice of the peace. In the following spring he was elected to this office and has been retained in it ever since, his service being most satisfactory to all concerned.

Mr. Monroe was married (first), in 1889, to Mary Ann Clayton, who died August 10, 1896, the mother of three chillren—Orville, Willard and Clarence (deceased). On March 7, 1897, Mr. Monroe was married to Emma Nolan, a daughter of Henry and Matilda (Younger) Nolan. The father of Mrs. Monroe was born in Mercer County and died in February, 1901. The mother was born in an old log cabin in this county where her father, Robert Younger, had settled as a pioneer. The brothers and sisters of Mrs. Monroe are: Samuel, who married Mary Grace and lives in Center township, near Celina; Frank, Roy, Harry and Ben, all living in Center township; Ida, wife of James Delong; and Anna.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Monroe were: Goldie, who died in infancy; and Opal, Ruth, Kale, Roy and Charles, all living at home.

Mr. Monroe is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees tent at Montezuma and to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodge at Celina.

JOHN POWELL

John Powell, a prominent farmer and stock-raiser of Washington township, residing in section 10, owns 111 acres of fine land in sections 10 and

11, Washington township, and 80 acres in section 27, Liberty township. Mr. Powell was born in Butler County, Ohio, January 24, 1836, and is a son of John and Barbara (Shafer) Powell.

John Powell, our subject's father, was born near Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and did not come to Ohio until after his marriage. He settled then on a farm in Butler County, not far distant from Hamilton, where he resided until 1852, when he removed to Washington township, Mercer County, where he bought 320 acres. It was mainly wild land which he cleared with the assistance of his sons. Of his eight children, John, the sixth in order of birth, and Mrs. Amanda Sarber, of Butler County, the youngest daughter, are the sole survivors. The others were: Mrs. Lucy Hillergass, who died near Fort Wayne, Indiana; Mrs. Susan Bitner, who died in Wood County, Ohio; Samuel, who was a well-known farmer of Washington township; Mrs. Catherine Moore, who resided in Butler County; and Sarah and David, who died in Washington township.

John Powell's school days were passed in Butler County, as he was about 15 years old when he accompanied his father to Mercer County. He assisted on the home farm until he was 22 years of age and then engaged in farming in Illinois for about seven years. Since then he has resided in Washington township. A part of his present farm is a portion of the old home farm which his father bought in 1852. In addition to carrying on general agriculture, Mr. Powell has given especial attention to the raising of thoroughbred cattle and sheep and the best strain of horses. His Shropshire sheep and Polled Durham cattle have taken many prizes.

In 1868 Mr. Powell was married (first) to Fannie Jenkins, and (second), in 1871, to Maggie Wiles, both of whom are deceased. In 1875 Mr. Powell was married (third) to Emeline Kutsch, a daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Conrad) Kutsch. Mr. Kutsch came from Germany to America when a young man and was married to Catherine Conrad, in Liberty township, Mercer County. He died in 1867, but his widow survives and lives in Jay County, Indiana. Their children were: Jacob, deceased; Emeline; Katie and Sophia (twins), the former of whom is the wife of Caleb Wilson and the latter the widow of Frank Oliver; and Angeline, who died in childhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Powell have had six children, the survivors being Katie, who married John Minchoffer, resides in Washington township and has two children—Beatrice and John Cletus; Pearl, who married John Smith and has one child, Naomi; Benjamin Franklin, who married Ivy Wright and has two children, Delilah and Mabel; and Stephen Grover Cleveland and Leona, who are at home. One daughter, Maggie, died aged four years. Politically Mr. Powell is a Democrat.

ADAM SCHAADT

Adam Schaadt, deceased, was in life one of the best known and most highly respected citizens of Liberty township, where he owned a farm of 160 acres on which he resided for over a decade. Mr. Schaadt was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, February 24, 1846, and died in Mercer County, March 21, 1895. He was a son of Adam and Phebe (Giesler) Schaadt.

The parents of our subject were natives of Germany and were among the early settlers of Van Wert County. Of their children, but one son survives—Philip, who resides in Van Wert County. Another son, Fred, died November 8, 1906, in Liberty township.

The late Adam Schaadt was reared in Van Wert County and from his youth was familiar with all kinds of agricultural work and devoted his attention through life to farming and stock-raising. In 1880 he removed from Van Wert County to Mercer and settled in Liberty township, where he lived until his death.

Mr. Schaadt was married on August 16, 1870, to Mary Koch, who was born in Butler County, Ohio, September 28, 1850, and is a daughter of John and Mary Koch. Her parents, who were natives of Germany, settled first in Butler County upon coming to Ohio, but subsequently came to Mercer County. Twelve children were born to our subject and wife, of whom nine survive, as follows: Phebe, wife of Jacob Haas; David J. and Henry W., both of Liberty township; Susanna C., wife of William Becher, of Liberty township; Annie O., wife of Louis Alt, of Liberty township; Rosa, wife of Otto Wendel, of Liberty township; John Adam, of Liberty township; and Emma and Freda E., both living at home. The widow of our subject resides on the home farm and continues to operate the same. She, with her children, is well known and most highly esteemed in this section.

Adam Schaadt was a member of the Democratic party. He belonged, as does his wife, to the Evangelical Association. He was an affectionate husband, a loving father, a consistent member of his church and a good and peaceful citizen.

JAMES H. MONROE

James H. Monroe, whose 40-acre farm on which he resides is situated in section 9, Jefferson township, was born in Shelby County, Ohio, near Lockington, on September 17, 1842, and is a son of Henry and Mary Jane (Miller) Monroe.

Henry Monroe was born in Loudoun County, Virginia, and came to Shelby County with his half-brother when 21 years old. Here he secured

work in a sawmill and also ground corn. He was married in Shelby County to Mary Jane Miller and they had seven children, three of whom are living: James H., John and D. S.

James H. Monroe lived with his parents in Shelby County until 1856 when the family removed to a farm of 120 acres in Butler township, Mercer County, that his father purchased. It was here our subject was reared and educated, making this his home until one year after his marriage. At the outbreak of the Civil War Mr. Monroe enlisted for 100 days in Company I, 156th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf. After the conclusion of his original term of enlistment, he again enlisted in February, 1865, becoming a member of Company D, 193rd Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and serving until the close of the war. In 1872 Mr. Monroe moved to his present farm which he had purchased in 1863. He has made many improvements, building a new house and barn as well as other necessary buildings. He also cultivates 70 acres in section 10, which he rents of Christopher Schunck.

In October, 1866, Mr. Monroe was married to Dena Cencabaugh. They have had 10 children, namely: William, who married Ida Beougher and lives in Jefferson township; Ralph B., who married Martha Cordier, lives in Jefferson township and has one child, Helen; Virgil, living on the home place, who married Lola West and has one son; Flora, who married Charles Taylor, lives in Monroe township and has three children—James Edward, Elizabeth and Ralph; Earl, who lives at home; Henry, Mary, Fannie and Gabe, deceased; and Laura, who married Henry Goodnick and died in March, 1901, leaving seven children—Murley, Susan, Daney, Bessie, Flora, James and Willie. Mr. Monroe has served on the School Board for several years and served as supervisor of Butler township while living there. In politics he is a Republican. He is a member of the Spring Valley United Brethren Church.

WILLIAM E. SLOAN

William E. Sloan, who is engaged in general farming on a tract of 80 acres located in section 23, Washington township, was born in Shelby County, Ohio, September 9, 1852, and is a son of Isaiah and Elizabeth (Jeffers) Sloan.

Isaiah Sloan, who was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, is a son of Hugh Sloan, and came to Fairfield County with his parents when a small child. He was married to Elizabeth Jeffers and they had 10 children, of whom William E. Sloan was the third child. Isaiah Sloan died in Washington township, Mercer County, in 1894.

William E. Sloan was reared in Shelby County on his father's farm, and when 23 years old came with his father to Mercer County, his mother having

died when he was 15 years of age. In 1883 he formed a partnership with James C. Snyder and Henry Adams for the erection of a large tile-mill at Erastus, Washington township, in which business he engaged for a period of 11 years, after which he sold his interest in the mill to Mr. Swartz. He next rented a sawmill from James C. Snyder, which he operated for the next two years, and then bought a farm of 80 acres located in section 23, Washington township, which he kept only a few days, selling to Fred Hehmeyer. In September, 1896, he bought his present farm of 80 acres, where he has since resided, engaged in general farming. Many improvements have been made on the place, and a fine frame house and barn have been built, the latter being completed in 1901. Mr. Sloan was married in 1898 to Maria Carmack, a daughter of Charles Carmack.

JAMES FRANCIS MONROE

James Francis Monroe, whose excellent farm of 76 acres is situated in section 19, Franklin township, was born May 21, 1857, on a farm in Shelby County, Ohio, and is a son of James Henry and Elizabeth A. (Duffy) Monroe.

James Henry Monroe was born in Pennsylvania and in young manhood accompanied his parents, who were Virginians, to Shelby County, Ohio, locating near Lockington. He there married Elizabeth A. Duffy, who was also born in Virginia. They had two children born to them before leaving Shelby County, viz.: David L., who married (first) Nancy Gray and (second) Bertha Swartz; and James Francis, of this sketch. After the family removed to Mercer County, these children were born: Joseph Henry, who lived to the age of 34 years; Martha, who died aged four years; Mary E., who married Elias Stafford, lives at Montezuma, where the mother of our subject also resides; and Walter Nimrod, also of Montezuma, who married (first) Mary Ann Clayton and (second) Emma Nolan.

James F. Monroe was about 15 months old when his parents moved to Mercer County, where the father bought a farm of 120 acres in section 30, Franklin township, on which he died in 1892. He had been a farmer all his life and was a most highly respected, worthy man. James F. Monroe attended the country schools and worked for his father until his marriage, which took place on October 17, 1879, to Sarah Cain, a daughter of D. B. Cain, of Paulding County. Mr. and Mrs. Monroe have had 11 children, as follows: Sidney, Lloyd and Fred, all deceased in childhood; William O., who married Pearl Tinnet and has one son, Cecil, who is our subject's only grandchild; and Ida, Lura, Ethel, Stella, Dallas, Jennie and Harold, all at home. William O. Mon-

roe is a well-known and popular school teacher, having taught for three years at Montezuma, one year in Hopewell and one year in Jefferson township.

Mr. Monroe bought his farm before his marriage, purchasing it from the Washington Wade estate. It is divided into two portions and is located near Lake Mercer. After marriage, he built his present comfortable residence and other buildings. He carries on general farming and stock-raising.

Mrs. Monroe has five sisters and two brothers, namely: Anna, who married Albert Reed; Perlina Rachel; Narcissa, who married Elias Roebuck; Mary Nancy, who married Franklin Gallapoo; Millie, who married Willis Chittington; Jonathan William, who married Laura Colvin; and David Isaiah. The father of Mrs. Monroe was born in Darke County, Ohio, married Narcissa Manning, in Randolph County, Indiana, and both reside in Paulding County, Ohio.

Mr. Monroe has been a member of the township School Board for a number of years and has served the community as road supervisor for several terms. He is an Odd Fellow, being a member of the subordinate lodge, the Rebekah lodge and the encampment. With his wife he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is known as an honest, upright man, and is a type of the best class of citizens that the county produces.

FRED HEHMEYER

Fred Hehmeyer, one of the leading citizens of Washington township, and the owner of 225 acres of valuable farm land—160 acres in section 24, Washington township (the home place), and 65 acres in section 19, Butler township—was born in Germany, April 10, 1859, and is a son of Frederick and Elizabeth (Knippenberg) Hehmeyer, both of whom were born and died in Germany.

Fred Hehmeyer was reared on his father's farm in Germany, remaining there until 20 years of age, when he entered the German Army and served for three years. He then returned to his home and about four months later came to America, landing in New York, April 14, 1882. He located at Dayton, Ohio, for a short time, and then came to Mercer County, where he engaged in farm work until after his marriage, when he moved to a farm owned by his wife. Later he bought 80 acres in Washington township, adjoining his wife's farm, and still later bought another tract of 65 acres in Butler township. He has made many improvements on his property and has erected a large frame house, barn and other necessary buildings. Mr. Hehmeyer is engaged in general farming and stock-raising, owning full-blooded Polled Durham cattle and Poland-China and Chester-White hogs.

Mr. Hehmeyer was married in 1884 to Christina Wenker, a daughter of Frank and Charlotte (Varwig) Wenker, both natives of Germany, who came to America about 1852, and settled near New Bremen, Ohio, where they lived for about 12 years. Mr. Wenker was a volunteer soldier in the Union Army during the Civil War, serving about nine months. Shortly after returning from the war, he sold his farm near New Bremen and moved to Mercer County, where he bought a farm of 80 acres in Washington township. To this land he added from time to time and at his death owned 160 acres. His death occurred in March, 1889, and his wife died about 1887. They were the parents of six children, of whom Mrs. Hehmeyer was the fifth child.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hehmeyer were born 10 children: Carl, Caroline, Tillie, George, Ida, Henry, John, Emma, Annie and Elice. Mr. Hehmeyer is a member of the Lutheran Church, in which he has been a trustee and deacon.

JOSEPH MACKE

Joseph Macke, the owner of 200 acres of excellent farming land in Granville township, has his residence on the homestead of 80 acres, situated in section 21, southeast of St. Henry. He was born April 3, 1848, in Butler township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Bernard and Elizabeth (Schonoff) Macke.

Bernard Macke was born in Germany in 1802, and died in Mercer County, December 2, 1849. He came from his native village of Havrebeck without companions, but later found countrymen at Cincinnati, where he worked in a stone quarry. He was married while he lived in that city, and then purchased from Bernard Romer a farm which was situated in the forests of Mercer County. The elder Joseph Romer had known them in the old country and often visited them while they lived in Cincinnati, being a relative also. When Mr. and Mrs. Macke were ready to take up their residence on their forest farm, Mr. Romer drove them out to the property and landed them and their few possessions, on a Saturday, in the big woods, under a beech tree. Being devout Catholics, they did no work on the following day, but by the time the next Sunday came round they had a roof to shelter them. This farm was cleared by Bernard Macke. After his death, his widow married Henry J. Brackman, who also came from Germany.

The children born to the parents of our subject, were: Mary, who died in infancy; Henry; Bernard, who died aged 20 years; Catherine; Joseph, of this sketch; and Agnes. There were no children born to Mrs. Macke's second marriage; she died May 21, 1881. Mr. Brackman died February 6, 1874.

RESIDENCE AND TILE WORKS OF LEWIS EDWARD FOX

Joseph Macke's parents moved to Mercer County five years before his birth. He received his home farm of 80 acres from his father's estate when he came of age. About three miles southwest of the homestead is located his other farm, consisting of 120 acres, lying chiefly south of the Greenville treaty line in section 22. The Wabash River runs through a corner of this tract. He distinctly remembers the time when an abundance of game was to be found on the farm. For 40 years Mr. Macke has been a heavy dealer in live-stock, in addition to carrying on general farming.

On October 16, 1866, Mr. Macke was married to Theresa Drahman, who was born March 27, 1850, on her father's farm in Mercer County, and is a daughter of Bernard and Mary (Hemmelgarn) Draham. Mr. Draham became acquainted with the Macke family in Cincinnati. He was married in Mercer County and died December 2, 1895. His widow survived until July 3, 1899. Their children were: Henry, of Minnesota; Bernardina, deceased; Anna, deceased; Theresa, wife of Mr. Macke; Elizabeth, deceased; Margaret, deceased; John, of Minnesota; Joseph, of Cincinnati; Frances, wife of J. H. Lange, of Mercer County; and Bernard, deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Macke have had children as follows: Mary, who married Frank Gels, lives at St. Henry and has had six children—Theresa, Joseph, Henry, Ida and two deceased; Elizabeth, who married John Panning, lives at St. Henry and has had four children—Edwin, Leone and two deceased; Rose, who married Jacob Bany, lives at St. Henry and has had seven children—Mathilda, Loretta, Flora, Marie, Cleopha, Alvera, and an infant son, deceased, named Urban; Joseph, who married Rose Miller, resides on a nearby farm and has one child, Helen; Theresa, who married John Gels and lives at St. Henry; Bernard; Clara; Anna; Leo; Henry, deceased; Theresa, deceased; Henry; and Ida, deceased. The family belong to St. Henry's Catholic Church at St. Henry. For a number of years Mr. Macke has served on the School Board of the township.

LEWIS EDWARD FOX

Lewis Edward Fox, one of Union township's representative business men, who is engaged in the manufacture of tile and in the operation of a farm of 80 acres on which he has lived for the past 25 years, was born June 15, 1853, in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. He is a son of Peter and Fanny (Moyer) Fox and a grandson of Peter and Anna (Secrist) Fox.

Peter Fox, Jr., the father of our subject, was born and reared on the farm in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, where Lewis Edward was born and raised, and it was here that the paternal grandfather was also reared. The maternal grandfather of our subject, Christian Moyer, moved from Lan-

caster County, Pennsylvania, to Dauphin County, where he lived the greater part of his life. Peter Fox died in 1868 at the age of 53 years. He was the father of six sons and one daughter, as follows: Lewis Edward; Benjamin Franklin, deceased; Christian Henry, deceased; John Wesley, who is a resident of Springfield, Ohio, where he is engaged as a machinist; William L., a resident of Dauphin County, Pennsylvania; Peter W., deceased; and Clara Annie, who married W. H. Wolf, of Pembroke, Pennsylvania.

Lewis Edward Fox was reared on his father's farm in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, received a common-school education and then engaged in farming. In the fall of 1870 he moved to Mercer County, Ohio, and worked on a farm at Neptune for two years. He then went back to his old home in Pennsylvania, but later returned to Mercer County, where he has since lived. Mr. Fox settled on his present farm in 1881. He was subsequently located for one year at Rockford, where he helped put in a tile plant. After selling the same, he returned to his home in Union township, where he has been engaged in manufacturing tile for the past 24 years, having established the factory in 1862. He has always had a large trade and never has been able to manufacture enough to supply the full demand. In 1905 he established a new plant, and with new appliances and improved machinery he has largely increased the output. He finds a ready sale for the product, as there is a growing demand for tile and building blocks. He employs eight men to operate the plant. Mr. Fox has made a great many improvements on the farm, on which there was only a small log cabin when it came into his possession. Views of the residence and tile plant accompany this sketch.

Mr. Fox was married January 5, 1876, to Jennie R. Boroff, a native of Union township, Mercer County, and a daughter of the late Harrison and Rebecca (Ross) Boroff, who were among the early settlers of Mercer County. Children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Fox as follows: William H.; deceased; Clara B., who married Milton Faurot and resides in Van Wert County; Harry G., deceased; Amy, who married Perry Hays and has one child, Helen; Richmond Boyd, deceased; Eddie and Fannie (twins, aged 17 years), who live at home; Peter, aged 14 years; and Marlin, aged 7. Mr. Fox is an Odd Fellow of high standing, being a member of the subordinate and Rebekah lodges at Mendon and the encampment at Celina. He is also a charter member of Mendon Lodge, No. 586, F. & A. M. He is a Democrat politically, but supports the man in preference to the party.

JOSEPH A. MEINERDING

Joseph A. Meinerding, one of the substantial business men of Fort Recovery, dealer in hardware and farming implements, was born in Fort Re-

covery, Mercer County, Ohio, February 1, 1875, and is a son of Wessel and Agnes (Romer) Meinerding.

Wessel Meinerding was born at Maria Stein, Mercer County, and was reared in this county. He moved to Fort Recovery after his marriage and opened a general store which he operated for several years, finally changing it to a dry goods and clothing store. He also ran an elevator. His death occurred in 1884. His wife is still living in Fort Recovery. They had seven children, namely: Elizabeth, who married W. H. Anthony, of Celina; Mary; Catherine, widow of the late J. W. Schroeder; W. H., of Petersburg, Indiana, who is in the dry goods business; Agnes; Joseph A.; and Wessel, of Chicago, Illinois.

Joseph A. Meinerding was reared and educated at Fort Recovery. After his marriage he assisted his brother-in-law, J. W. Schroeder, who was engaged in the hardware business, which he established in 1891. After some experience in this business he formed a partnership with Mr. Schroeder in 1897, and at the death of the latter, in 1903, he took possession of the entire business.

Mr. Meinerding was married September 1, 1902, to Gertrude Forbing, a daughter of Peter Forbing. They have two children: Paul B., and Catherine Gertrude. He is a member of the Catholic Church. Fraternally, he is a member of Lima Council, Knights of Columbus.

ANTON KOCH

Anton Koch, one of the leading citizens of Chattanooga, for many years was a successful agriculturist in Liberty township, was born in Butler County, Ohio, October 28, 1847, and is a son of John and Annie M. Koch.

The parents of our subject were born, reared and married in Germany. John Koch was born January 1, 1814, and his wife December 20, 1813. A short time before the birth of our subject, they emigrated to America and settled in Butler County, Ohio, where they remained until 1852, when they came to Mercer County. They settled on a farm in Liberty township, where they passed the remainder of their lives, John Koch dying February 3, 1892, and his wife, October 19, 1898. They were worthy, industrious, home-building people. The surviving members of the family are one son, Anton, and five daughters, as follows: Susan, wife of John Bauer, of Liberty township; Lena, widow of Joseph Harb, residing in Liberty township; Christina, widow of Adam Bollenbacher, residing in Liberty township; Mary, widow of Adam Schaadt, residing in Liberty township; and Phebe, wife of Philip Schaadt, of Van Wert County. Another daughter, Catherine, who was the wife of Fred

Schaadt, died July 5, 1898, leaving 10 children; Fred Schaadt died November 8, 1906.

Anton Koch was about five years old when his parents settled in Liberty township and here he was reared, and educated in the district schools. Prior to 1903, when he moved to the pleasant village of Chattanooga and retired from business activity, he devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits entirely and met with the success which provided him with a competency.

On February 9, 1871, Mr. Koch was married to Margaret Menchhofer, who was born in Germany and is a daughter of John and Catherine Menchhofer, also natives of Germany. When Mrs. Koch was a child of four years, her parents emigrated to America and came directly to Mercer County, settling in Washington township. Mrs. Koch was reared there and can remember many interesting events of her girlhood connected with the early days in that vicinity. Her father, John Menchhofer, died February 14, 1875.

Mr. and Mrs. Koch have had nine children born to them, but only four survive, all of whom have homes and domestic circles of their own. They are: Mary, born January 28, 1874, who is the wife of L. G. Baker, of Black Creek township; John, born February 14, 1876, and George A., born December 1, 1877, both of whom reside in Liberty township; and Maggie, born January 1, 1880, who is the wife of Henry Baker, of Chattanooga.

In politics, Mr. Koch has always been affiliated with the Democratic party. Both he and his wife are valued members of the Evangelical Association. They have pleasant social connections at Chattanooga and have many friends in Liberty township.

JOHN McQUEEN

John McQueen, treasurer of Washington township, who profitably operates his farm of 95 acres in section 25, Washington township, was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, January 17, 1842, and is a son of Ivie and Marion (Anderson) McQueen.

John McQueen spent his childhood days in Scotland and was 10 years of age when his parents came to America and located in Michigan. They remained there one summer, removing in September, 1852, to Mercer County, Ohio, settling upon a farm in Recovery township, which was purchased by Ivie McQueen, who died less than a year later. Mrs. McQueen died at the home of her daughter in Washington township in 1885, aged 91 years. They had four children: John; James, deceased in 1868; William, who is engaged in farming in Kansas; and Jane, who married John Ransbottom and died in the fall of 1903.

John McQueen lived in Recovery township until 1865, when he en-

listed in the 193rd Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., in which he served until the close of the war. He returned to Mercer County but not to Recovery township, as the home farm had been sold; he bought 40 acres in Washington township, on which he lived for one year and then sold this land. Mr. McQueen bought his present farm shortly after his marriage, it being then all timberland, and has made many improvements. Mrs. McQueen has a part interest in the property.

On January 1, 1867, Mr. McQueen was married to Margaret Jamieson, a daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Moore) Jamieson. Mrs. McQueen was born in Scotland and when five years old came to America with her parents who settled on the farm adjoining her present home and spent the remainder of their lives in Washington township. Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson were the parents of four children, namely: Agnes, deceased, who was the wife of Hugh Woodburn and lived in Iowa; Hugh, residing in Washington township near the Indiana State line; George, residing in Washington township; and Margaret. Mrs. Jamieson married James Woodburn after the death of her first husband, and she passed away September 30, 1903, aged 90 years.

Mr. and Mrs. McQueen have had 13 children, as follows: Elizabeth, deceased, aged 19 years; Marion, who married John McClelland, lives in Washington township and has three children—Clifford, Robert and Margaret; John, deceased, aged 15 years; Robert, who married Jerusha Kelly and lives in Washington township; James and Hugh, who died in infancy; Agnes, who married Oscar Snyder, lives at Coldwater and has two children—Margaret and Glenwood Loree; Ida Pearl, who married John Leininger, of Washington township, and has one child, Elva; George, who was accidentally killed while raising a barn, dying April 14, 1905, aged 23 years; Maria, who married Leonard Burris and has one child, Goldie; Nellie, who married Charles Powell, of Jefferson township, and has one child, Paul; and Clyde and Clifford, both at home.

Mr. McQueen has served as school director for 20 years. In the fall of 1905 he was elected township treasurer on the Republican ticket, the election coming as a great surprise to him, as he was unaware his name was being used.

CLEMMONS H. HULSMAN

Clemmons H. Hulsman, owner of a well-improved farm of 80 acres in Granville township, was born August 7, 1844, and is a son of Henry and Anna (Dennis) Hulsman.

Henry Hulsman, who was a native of Germany, located at Cincinnati, Ohio, upon coming to this country and was there married. He subsequently moved to Mercer County and worked for a time on the canal and reservoir. He later bought a farm in Granville township, where he resided until the time of his death, which occurred in the fall of 1856. By his first marriage, with Anna Dennis, he became the father of five children: Bernard, deceased; Henry; Clemmons H., the subject of this sketch; Catherine, who married Bernard Johnson; and a daughter, deceased. The second union, with Dina Sumbrink, resulted in three children, namely: Mary, who married Clem. Morthorst; Theodore; and a child, deceased.

Clemmons H. Hulsman was reared on the home place in Granville township and engaged in working on different farms until about 32 years of age, when he was married to Caroline Winhoven, a daughter of Peter Winhoven. Mrs. Hulsman died about 10 months after their marriage leaving a daughter, Caroline, who is also deceased. The second marriage was with Frances Fiely, the eighth child in a family of 14 children born to William and Mary (Holthouse) Fiely. A sketch of William may be found elsewhere in this work, being included in the biography of his son, Henry John Fiely.

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hulsman, namely: Mary, William, Anthony, Leo, Catherine, Rose, and Frances and Froneca (twins).

Mr. Hulsman owned and resided on a farm of 40 acres until 1903, when he purchased his present farm from his brother-in-law, Joseph Fiely, and has since lived here, engaged in general farming, being recognized as one of the township's most enterprising and successful citizens. Politically, Mr. Hulsman is a stanch Democrat, but has never cared to enter actively into politics. Our subject and his family are connected with St. Francis' Catholic Church at Cranberry Prairie.

MICHAEL VELTEN

Michael Velten, who has been a resident of Mercer County for the past 16 years and is engaged in the harness and hardware business at Fort Recovery, was born in Rheinpfalz Byn, Germany, January 10, 1872, and is the son of Jacob and Catherine (Welthelm) Velten, who were natives of Germany and lived there all their lives. Jacob and Catherine Velten were the parents of five children, namely: Catherine, wife of Carl Miller; Michael; Peter, who married Philomena Stuby; Elizabeth, wife of Peter Heinrich; and Nicholas, who married Alvira Riser. Nicholas and Michael, our subject, are the only members of the family to come to America. Jacob

Velten, who was engaged in farming, was also a weaver and died in 1887 at the age of 54 years. His wife died January 8, 1904, aged 62 years.

Michael Velten was reared in Germany, receiving a common-school education, and was an assistant to his teacher at one time, when he had 103 children in charge. After leaving school, he worked for some time in a stone quarry and when 17 years of age came to America, where he worked for two years on a farm for his uncle, Fred. Schlachter, at Loramies, Shelby County, Ohio. He subsequently went to Minster, Auglaize County, and worked two years for Theodore Vanderbrook, learning the harness maker's trade. He then removed to Fort Recovery and worked at his trade for two years under J. F. Cull, after which he took a trip through the United States, visiting New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Indian Territory, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and New Jersey, after which he returned to Fort Recovery. He then worked at his trade in Cincinnati for nine months. In 1896 he bought out his old employer, J. F. Cull, and engaged in the harness business at Fort Recovery, in which business he has since continued, having added hardware and tinware lines.

Mr. Velten was married October 8, 1896, to Rose Vogel, who was born at Utica, New York, March 25, 1874, and is a daughter of Henry and Maria (Beck) Vogel, who were natives of Alsace-Lorraine, France, now a part of Germany. Mr. Vogel, who was a soldier in the French Army for 14 years, came to America in 1873, and settled at Utica, New York, subsequently locating on a farm near Gibsonburg, Sandusky County, Ohio. He afterward located on a farm in Mercer County, near Coldwater, where he resided until 1906, when he sold the property and now lives in retirement at Coldwater. Eight children were born to Henry Vogel and wife, namely: Rose, wife of our subject; Peter, who lives at Toledo; Mary, who married Edward Rohrkemper, of Hamilton, Ohio; Henry, who married Mary Shandorf and resides at Helena, Ohio; Jacob, who married Elizabeth Spoltman and lives near Helena, Ohio, on a farm; Leonard, unmarried, who is serving in the United States Army, being stationed in the Philippines; and John and Joseph, who live at home. Mr. and Mrs. Velten have had four children: Alvira, Victor, Edmond and William.

In June, 1906, Mr. Velten took a trip to the old country, both for his health and pleasure, making a 10-weeks' visit in Germany and France, returning to business on August 11th. He is a Democrat politically and has served as a member of the Village Council and in various township offices. He and his wife are members of the Catholic Church of Mary, Help of Christians, at Fort Recovery.

HENRY JOHN FIELY

Henry John Fiely, owner of a fine farm of 120 acres located in section 23, Granville township, was born on the farm where he now resides, November 1, 1867, and is a son of William and Mary (Holthouse) Fiely.

William Fiely, who was born in Holland, came to America when a young man. After landing at New York, he worked for a few days on a ship and then proceeded to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he remained for two years, working at odd jobs, sometimes for so little as 70 cents per day. He was married while in Cincinnati to Mary Holthouse, who came from Germany with her parents when very young and settled at Cincinnati. She was a daughter of Eberhard Holthouse, who was the father of seven children, namely: Eberhard, Henry, Joseph, Mary, Elizabeth, Catherine and Angelica. Shortly after the birth of his oldest son, Mr. Fiely and family moved to Mercer County, and bought a small farm near Philothea. He later sold that farm and purchased 40 acres in Granville township, which is now a part of our subject's farm. There were no buildings on the land, which was covered with timber and wholly unimproved. He first erected a rough log stable, and in that his wife and child found shelter. It was in the fall of the year when he located on the place, and he had nothing but $5 in money and an axe with which to cut down timber. He bought a steer of Mr. Spoltman, paying for the same by work, and in the meantime kept on clearing his land. The following summer he carried brick for St. Henry's Catholic Church, which was then being built, and earned enough to buy another steer. He soon made good progress in clearing his own farm. Wild game of all kinds was plentiful and no roads were to be found, only foot-paths such as were made by the cattle. He cut down timber, made barrel staves from the white oak trees and carted them into Minster, exchanging a load of staves for a sack of flour; it required two days to make the trip, and he would stay out on the road all night. He bought the first reaper in his part of the county; it was a very awkward machine to handle and it was while operating it that he lost his arm. He was a very successful farmer and gradually acquired more and more land until at his death he owned about 340 acres. He started the first brick-kiln in his section of the county, the nearest one being at Fort Recovery, and for 14 seasons was engaged in this business, in which he was very successful. He was the father of 14 children, namely: Mrs. Mary Spoltman; Elizabeth, wife of Henry Bosken; Anna, wife of William Schwietermann; Louise, who died aged 18 years; Catherine, wife of Bernard Bertke; Henry, deceased in infancy; John H., who married Philomena Bertke; Bernardina, wife of Henry Sheffer; Frances, wife of Clem. H. Hulsman; Joseph, who married Elizabeth Eyink; Bernard, who married

Mary Fernbauch; Henry (2), the subject of this sketch; Philomena, wife of Fred Bertke; and Christina. Mr. Fiely died March 8, 1894. His wife is still living and resides at Cranberry Prairie.

Henry Fiely was reared on his father's farm in Granville township, has always lived in Mercer County and has never been away from home for any length of time. He was married July 31, 1895, to Anna Neuhardt, who was born at Indianapolis, Indiana, August 12, 1875, and is a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Boehmer) Neuhardt, both natives of Germany. Mr. Neuhardt came to this country when a young man and first settled at Indianapolis, Indiana, where he was married in 1869. Shortly after his marriage, he moved to Mercer County, Ohio, and located at Cassella, where he followed his trade, having learned wood carving and carpentering in Germany. He worked on all the principal churches in the county and built a great many houses, among them our subject's house, which is a seven-room brick structure, erected in 1876. He lived in Mercer County for about 30 years, and then moved to Dayton, Ohio, where he is now a foreman in a furniture factory. His wife is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Neuhardt are the parents of the following children: Elizabeth, who married Bernard Forsthoefel; Carrie, wife of Valentine Leonard; Anna; Maggie, who married Frank Staver; Henry, who married Bertha Ugal; Agnes, who married Joseph Long; Anthony; Frances; Fred, deceased; and Fred (2).

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Fiely, as follows: Edith, William, Alfred, Andrew, Henry (deceased in infancy), and Henrietta. Mr. Fiely and his family are members of St. Francis' Catholic Church at Cranberry Prairie.

SILVERIUS GEBELE

Silverius Gebele, a representative farmer of Granville township, owning 120 acres in section 20, was born November 30, 1840, in Perry County, Ohio, and is a son of Sebastian and Crescent (Rodgaber) Gebele.

Sebastian Gebele accompanied his father, from Bayern, Germany, to America, in 1840. His mother, who was also a member of the party, died at sea. There were but two children in the family, Sebastian and Joseph, who died when he was about to enter the German Army. The grandparents of our subject had conducted an inn in their native land and there Sebastian learned the brewing business. Sebastian Gebele and his father bought a farm of 40 acres in Perry County, Ohio, and there the father died in 1849. In Germany Sebastian had married and when he came to America he brought with him his wife and his two children: Sebastian, who married Rebecca

Flower and lives in Zanesville, Ohio, and Mary, also a resident of Zanesville, who married Edward Markel. The other members of the family were born in America, as follows: Silverius, of this sketch; Jacob, who married Addie Keck, served four years in the army during the Civil War and died at Zanesville; Leonard, who married Rose Reitleman and lives at St. Henry; George, who married Felice Garney and died at Celina; Julia Ann, who married Liebolt Lauber and lives in Missouri; and Catherine, who married Fred Fiesley and lives at Zanesville.

Sebastian Gebele lived in Perry County until November 1, 1849, when he came to this county. This was nothing but a wilderness at that time and neighbors who lived many miles away were considered near. He bought 40 acres of land from Bernard Romer, cleared the tract and on it erected a round-log cabin. Here he died in September, 1854. Later his widow bought 40 acres from Peter Bert, making the homestead 80 acres in extent. When she died in February, 1887, our subject bought the home place and at a later date bought 40 acres, which the grandfather had left to the grandsons.

In May, 1867, Silverius Gebele was united in marriage with Elizabeth Romer, who died December 28, 1870. She was born April 20, 1847, and was a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Klinetrimp) Romer. Two children were born to this union: John Edward, who married Anna Smith, and George William, who married Mary Zarringer; and both sons are residents of Fort Recovery.

On November 28, 1872, Mr. Gebele was married (second) to Mary Crush, who was born in Seneca County, Ohio, December 22, 1850, and is a daughter of John and Margaret Crush, natives of Germany, who settled in Seneca County, Ohio, upon coming to this country, where Mr. Crush followed the coopering business. Later they moved to Maryland and followed farming for a time and then removed to Mercer County and settled on a farm near St. Henry, where John Crush died in 1870, aged 77 years. His wife then removed to Pulaski, Indiana, where she died aged 78 years. They had children as follows: Lena, who died in childhood; John, who married Christiana Soefelman, of Martin's Ferry, Ohio; Frances, deceased, who was the wife of Mathias Beck; Margaret, who married Charles Studer and lives at Wheeling, West Virginia; Catherine, widow of Casper Rieterbuch, residing at Pulaski, Indiana; Elizabeth, who married Anton Miller and lives at St. Henry; Peter, who married Elizabeth Brenkman and died in Indiana; and Mary, the wife of our subject.

Mr. and Mrs. Gebele have had 10 children, of whom seven are now living, namely: Joseph Albert, who married Catherine Tangeman and lives at Fort Recovery; John Henry, who married Agatha Staggler and lives

at Dayton; Casper Leonard, who married Emma Hammon and rents his father's farm; Silverius M., who resides at St. Henry; Philip Ernest, born November 17, 1892; Elizabeth, who married Joseph Rosner, formerly a resident of Fort Recovery, but now of St. Henry; and Grace, who married Frank Bany, and lives at St. Henry. The names of the grandchildren are: John, Elizabeth, Paulina and Chrisenthia Gebele; Edwin, Viola, William, Marcella and Louella Gebele; Mary and Lilliosa Rosner; and Evalina, Lenora, and Leroy Gebele. Three sons, Joseph, Henry and Leonard, were married on the same day, at St. Henry.

The old homestead is a picturesque residence, a part of the old log house having been retained and remodeled, while all is beautifully shaded by trees. Here Mr. and Mrs. Gebele are spending the evening of life surrounded by all that will tend to render them comfortable and happy. The sons and daughters take all the burdens from the parents and the grandchildren swarming around their knees bring back the years of their early married life. They are very highly respected in this community. Both are devout members of the Catholic Church. Politically, Mr. Gebele is a Democrat; he served through one term as constable, three terms as township trustee and for a number of years was a member of the School Board.

WILLIAM FREDERICK PAUSCH

William Frederick Pausch, merchant, dealer in groceries and queensware, at Fort Recovery, was born at St. Marys, Ohio, December 20, 1857, and is a son of Fred Christian and Caroline (Ankerman) Pausch.

Fred Christian Pausch, father of our subject, came in early manhood to America, landing at New Orleans in 1854. He was a native of Germany and had learned the milling trade in his own land. From New Orleans the youth went to Cincinnati, where he transferred from the big river steamer to the packet boat on the canal, on which he reached New Bremen, in Auglaize County. He remained there about two years, working in a flour mill, and then moved to St. Marys and was employed in the mills in the vicinity for 20 years. He then returned to New Bremen and worked in the mills there for six years. When the railroad was built through Fort Recovery, in 1879, Mr. Pausch was one to quickly recognize the fact that this place was destined to be a town of some importance, hence he located here, buying a mill in partnership with Abraham Rantz. The business was run under the firm name of Pausch, Rantz & Company and the partnership continued until Mr. Pausch's death, of typhoid fever, on September 17, 1893. His widow still survives.

The eight children of Fred Christian Pausch and wife were: William Frederick; Laura, who died in childhood; Edward J., who married Minnie Reedy and lives at Piqua, Ohio; Henry, who died in 1886 in young manhood; Anna, who married George Reedy and lives at Piqua; Louie and Frank, deceased in infancy; and Theodore, who married Ethel Thompson and lives at Detroit, Michigan.

William Frederick Pausch started to work for his father in youth; worked in a mill at New Bremen for six years, at Cincinnati for one year, and at Minster, Ohio, for two years and nine months. From 1882 until 1886 he worked for Higby & Company, at Belleview, Ohio. In the latter year he came to Fort Recovery, where his father and two brothers, Henry and Edward, had conducted a store for one year, but the death of Henry made a vacancy, which William Frederick filled. In 1901 he bought his brother Edward's interest, the latter going to Piqua. Our subject has continued to operate the business ever since and is one of the village's substantial, representative citizens. He has invested in property and owns a nice place on Main street, which he bought in 1893, remodeling and modernizing the 10-room house.

In 1883 Mr. Pausch was married to Elizabeth Rabe, a daughter of Henry and Mary (Myers) Rabe, natives of Germany, the latter coming to America when 16 years old. Mr. and Mrs. Pausch have two children, namely: Rolla, born March 17, 1884; and Helen, born July 3, 1891. The mother of Mrs. Pausch resides with her daughter, the father having died at New Bremen, where Mrs. Pausch was born May 14, 1861. She has two surviving brothers, namely: Theodore, a merchant in New Bremen, who married (first) Catherine Wiemyer, and (second) Ida Trautwine; and Henry, of St. Marys, Ohio, who married Catherine Limbacher.

Mr. Pausch has always taken an active interest in public affairs. He served for eight years as a member of the Village Council of Fort Recovery, and is now a member of the Board of Public Affairs. He belongs to Pisgah Congregational Church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Eagles.

THOMAS HART

Thomas Hart, who has been a resident of Gibson township since 1872, resides on his farm of 96 acres in section 23. He was born in Fayette County, Ohio, January 2, 1866, and is a son of Thomas and Kate (Ennis) Hart.

Thomas Hart, Sr., was born in Ireland, where he grew to manhood. Upon coming to the United States, he located at New York, where he worked for a number of years and was married. About 1861 he moved to Fayette

County, Ohio, where he settled on a farm on which he lived until 1872, when he moved to Mercer County and bought the farm now owned by our subject and his brother James, who is engaged in teaching school. Thomas Hart died in 1901 and his wife died in 1897. They were the parents of seven children, five of whom are living. The record is as follows: Patrick, who lives in Recovery township; John, a resident of Granville township; Thomas; Peter, who died aged 21 years; James, who teaches in the Koester school district, Gibson township; Mary, who died aged 22 years; and Margaret, wife of Michael Resh, living in Recovery township.

Thomas Hart came to Mercer County with his parents when six years of age, and has since lived in this township and on the farm, where his father first located, the land at that time being chiefly covered with timber. Mr. Hart was married in the fall of 1898 to Clara Stachler, a daughter of Henry Stachler. Mr. and Mrs. Hart have no children. They are both members of St. Wendelin's Catholic Church at Wendelin.

GEORGE KLINGSHIRN

George Klingshirn, who resides on his well-developed farm of 80 acres, located in section 30, Gibson township, was born June 4, 1864, on a farm in Gibson township directly across the road from his present property, and is a son of Sebastian and Kunigunda (Friedmann) Klingshirn, natives of Germany.

Sebastian Klingshirn was about 14 years old when he came to the United States with his father, who located on a farm in Lorain County, Ohio, near French Creek. His mother died in Germany when he was quite small, and he was reared by his step-mother. After living in Lorain County for about 16 or 17 years he moved to Mercer County, about the year 1862, one year after his marriage. Here he bought a farm of 40 acres in Gibson township, to which farm he added from time to time, at one time owning as much as 360 acres of farm land, 200 acres being in Gibson township and the remaining 160 acres in Granville township. He divided 240 acres of this land among his children, and now lives on the remaining 120 acres. He was the father of 11 children—six girls and five boys—seven of whom are now living.

George Klingshirn was reared and educated in Gibson township. After his marriage, he located on his present farm of 80 acres and has since lived here engaged in agricultural pursuits. He has a well-improved farm, with good and substantial buildings, having erected a large farmhouse in 1892 and a fine large barn in 1902.

Mr. Klingshirn was married, January 31, 1893, to Mary Magdalene

Frank, a daughter of John Frank, a well-known farmer of Recovery township. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Klingshirn, namely: Joseph Sebastian, Kunigunda Mary, Leo Joseph, Urban Peter and Edward Joseph. Our subject is a member of the Sharpsburg Special District School Board. He is also a member of St. Paul's Catholic Church at Sharpsburg.

BERNARD HUERKAMP

Bernard Huerkamp, a prominent farmer of Washington township, residing on his well-improved farm of 120 acres, was born in Germany, June 3, 1855, and is a son of Bernard and Gertrude (Grapperhaus) Huerkamp.

Bernard Huerkamp, Sr., was born and raised in Germany, where he lived until 1881 when he came to America with his wife and four children, and located on the farm now owned by our subject in Washington township. He was the father of five sons and two daughters, namely: Philomena, who married Bernard Gumme and lives on a farm adjoining the home farm; Bernard; Joseph, deceased in 1893, who conducted a general store at Monterey; Henry, a merchant of Santa Ana, Kentucky; August, proprietor of a general store at Covington, Kentucky; Elizabeth, deceased in 1903, who was the wife of Joseph Schroer, of Washington township; and Martin, living at Ellinger, Kentucky, who is a partner in a large wholesale business in Cincinnati. Mr. Huerkamp died in 1904 and his wife died in 1902.

Bernard Huerkamp, the subject of this sketch, was reared to manhood in Germany, and received a good common-school education in that country. He came to this country with his parents when 25 years of age. After landing at New York, they spent one day in that city and then located in Cincinnati, where they remained for about six months. Our subject was unmarried when he came to Mercer County, and located on his present farm which he purchased, and his parents made their home with him the rest of their lives. He has a well-improved farm and in 1893 he erected a fine, large frame house and a barn. Mr. Huerkamp is recognized as one of the township's most successful and prosperous farmers. Mr. Huerkamp was engaged in farming in Germany prior to coming to this country, owning a large estate of 900 acres. He contemplates taking a trip to the old country in the near future.

Mr. Huerkamp was married in 1894 to Magdalene Rose, a daughter of Henry Rose. Mrs Huerkamp died September 23, 1906. The subject of this sketch is a man of enterprise and public spirit, and has always been among the foremost in the development of the interests of the community. He is a member of St. Anthony's Catholic Church at Padua.

PHILIP DEHAYS

PHILIP DEHAYS, who owns 100 acres of land, 80 acres being located in section 5, Recovery township, and the remaining 20 acres lying in section 7, Washington township, was born on his present farm, in Recovery township, October 29, 1851, and is a son of Isaac and Margaret (Snyder) DeHays, and a grandson of William DeHays.

William DeHays was born in Pennsylvania, where he was reared and educated. After his marriage, he moved to Ohio and settled in Preble County, subsequently locating in Jay County, Indiana. He had four sons, three by his first marriage and one by his second, namely: Samuel, Briggs, Isaac and Joseph, who is now a resident of Findlay, Ohio.

Isaac DeHays was born at Eaton, Preble County, Ohio, April 7, 1822, and was reared on his father's farm. In young manhood he entered 80 acres of land in Mercer County, paying $1.25 per acre. This land, which is now owned by our subject, was then covered with timber. He cleared all this land and built a log cabin, in which he lived alone for a number of years. He was married in 1850 to Margaret Snyder, who was born May 12, 1832, in Champaign County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Jesse Snyder, a resident of Adams County. Mr. and Mrs. DeHays became the parents of five children, namely: Elmira who married John Isenhart, a leading liveryman at Fort Recovery; Mary, who married Adam Nearon, of Fort Recovery; Catherine, wife of David Money, of Montpelier, Indiana; Jesse, who married Birdie Robinson, of Van Wert, Ohio, and has one child, Georgia; and Philip. Mr. DeHays spent the remainder of his life on his farm in Mercer County, his death occurring April 11, 1890. His wife is still living and makes her home with her son, the subject of this sketch.

Philip DeHays has spent all his life on his present farm. He has made many improvements on the place, and in 1884 built a fine large barn. The house in which he resides was raised in 1861 on the day Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated President of the United States. Mr. DeHays is engaged in general farming, raising principally wheat, corn and oats. He has never been married. He has served nine years as trustee of Recovery township, being elected on the Democratic ticket. He retired from the office in January, 1905. He also served one year on the School Board.

FELIX METZGER

FELIX METZGER, a successful farmer of Gibson township, who owns 240 acres of valuable and highly cultivated land in sections 35 and 36, was

born in Baden, Germany, January 14, 1836. He is a son of Anthony and Tillie Metzger, both natives of Germany.

Felix Metzger spent his early boyhood days in Germany, and when 10 years old accompanied his parents to America, making the three-months' trip in a sailing vessel. They landed at New York and after staying there four days located in Richland County, Ohio, where the father of our subject bought a small farm, on which he lived until his death.

Mr. Metzger was reared and educated in Richland County. In 1883 he sold a farm of 60 acres which he owned and moved to Mercer County. Here he purchased a farm of 160 acres situated in section 35, Gibson township, on which he made his home for many years, making many improvements, among which was the erection of a fine large barn. In April, 1902, he bought 80 acres adjoining his first farm and one year later built a fine large barn on the place; in 1905 he erected a frame house and moved on the place, renting the other farm.

Mr. Metzger was married in 1866, while a resident of Richland County, to Mary Keeler and they have had four children, as follows: Rosa, who lives at home; Frank, Joseph and Anthony. Mr. Metzger and his family are connected with the Catholic Church.

GEORGE F. HELLWARTH

George F. Hellwarth, one of the leading citizens and representative agriculturists of Hopewell township, the owner of the choice property known far and wide as the "Bonanza Farm," which is situated in section 28, belongs to one of the pioneer families of this locality. He was born in this township, March 5, 1849, and is a son of George M. and Margaret (Wappas) Hellwarth.

The parents of Mr. Hellwarth were born in Germany. When they came to Mercer County, the father bought from the government a tract of forest land, upon which he settled and which he spent the rest of his life in developing. In his death, in 1866, it was generally conceded that Hopewell township had lost one of its most worthy pioneers. Prior to coming to Ohio, he lived three years in Pennsylvania, and in the '30s worked as a laborer on the National Road between Springfield and Columbus, Ohio. He served as township trustee and did much to assist in the early developement of all the township's resources.

George F. Hellwarth was reared amid pioneer surroundings and secured his education in the little log schoolhouse of the district, in close proximity to his father's farm. His early training, as well as his inclinations, made him a practical farmer and he has given his main attention through life to agricul-

RUTH WILLCUTT LLOYD WILLCUTT MRS. LAURA W. ROLLER MRS. AMANDA EDITH W. PRICHARD
MRS. MARY BELLE S. WILLCUTT MARY WILLCUTT GEORGE WASHINGTON WILLCUTT

RESIDENCE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON WILLCUTT

tural pursuits. This evidently has been to good purpose as his 240-acre farm has acquired a name indicating great resources. His methods have been directed along intelligent lines and all the surroundings of his beautiful home give indications that the owner and manager of this estate thoroughly understands and takes pleasure in his business. All the buildings on the place are substantial ones. Mr. Hellwarth enjoys the reputation of being a model farmer.

On the 14th of May, 1886, a cyclone passed through our subject's neighborhood, and he with others suffered heavy losses, all his buildings being practically destroyed and several members of the family being injured.

Mr. Hellwarth was united in marriage with Catherine Schmidt, who was born in Auglaize County, Ohio, and is a daughter of the late Christian Schmidt, of Hopewell township, Mercer County. To this union have been born four children, namely: Lorenzo D., Clinton C., Oscar and Edith M.

For the past 29 years Mr. Hellwarth has resided on his present place and during this period he has taken an active part in the public affairs of Hopewell township. He has always been much interested in public education and on numerous occasions has served as school director in District No. 7. In politics he is a Republican and in 1905 was chosen by his party as its candidate for county commissioner. By reason of his high personal character, Mr. Hellwarth enjoys the confidence and esteem of his fellow-citizens.

GEORGE WASHINGTON WILLCUTT

George Washington Willcutt, one of the substantial citizens and representative farmers of Union township, was born in Center township, Mercer County, Ohio, August 30, 1853, and is a son of Edward and Susan (Fox) Willcutt.

Mr. Willcutt comes of Scotch ancestry on the paternal side and of Dutch on the maternal. His father was born in Portage County, Ohio, and died in Mercer County, in 1901, in his 71st year. The mother passed away in 1876, aged 53 years. They were married in Portage County but moved to Mercer County in 1850, settling in Center township, where the father purchased 80 acres of land and established the family home. Here the family of five children were reared; they were as follows: Louisa, born in Portage County, who married William Ballinger, and moved to the vicinity of Bluffton, Indiana, where she died, leaving a daughter; Emeline, born in Portage County, who married Joseph Ballinger, has five children and resides in Norton County, Kansas; George W.; Mary, a resident of Hoopeston, Illinois, who is the

widow of John Smith; and Jesse, who married Elva Cook, lives on the home farm and is engaged in farming.

George W. Willcutt spent his boyhood and youth in attending the district schools and working on the home farm. Agricultural pursuits have always claimed his attention and he is an experienced, practical farmer. In 1894 he purchased his present farm of 40 acres, which had been partially cleared. For some years, however, it had been rented to different farmers and was in poor condition. Mr. Willcutt soon remedied the mistakes of those who had preceded him, made all the excellent improvements which now make it a comfortable home, and put the land under a fine state of cultivation. He has always been a hard worker.

On March 3, 1881, Mr. Willcutt was married to Mary Belle Severns, a daughter of Frank and Amanda (Boroff) Severns. Mr. Severns was born near Sidney, Ohio, and his wife, in Union township, Mercer County. In her childhood, her parents moved to Iowa, but subsequently returned to Mercer County.

Mr. and Mrs. Willcutt have five children, namely: Amanda Edith, who married Lloyd Prichard and resides in Van Wert County, where her husband is engaged in farming—they have two children, Lenore and Franklin Eugene; Lloyd, a teacher, now residing in Columbus, Ohio; Laura, who married Willard Roller, resides in Columbus and has one child, Ruth; and Ruth and Mary, both living at home.

Although Mr. Willcutt takes no very active interest in politics, he always does his duty as a good citizen. He is identified with the Republican party. Mr. and Mrs. Willcutt are both members of Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church in Union township. Accompanying this sketch is a group picture of the Willcutt family and a view of the Willcutt home.

HENRY CLAY

Henry Clay, one of the oldest and most highly respected citizens of Union township, was born May 17, 1826, one mile from Carlisle in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. He is a son of Henry and Mary Elizabeth (Mell) Clay, a grandson of John and Catherine Clay and a great-grandson of Mathias Clay, a native of Germany.

John and Catherine Clay were the parents of eight sons and one daughter, namely: Mathias, Philip, Jacob, Nicholas, John, George, Henry, Christian and Mrs. Catherine Wax, the last named a resident of Pennsylvania.

Henry Clay, the father of our subject, was born in December, 1796, in Perry County, Pennsylvania, and the mother, who was also a native of Perry

County, was born in July, 1799, both being of German descent. Mr. Clay was mustered into the militia in the war of 1812, the citizens having drawn lots for service, and for three months he was in the barracks at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Mr. Clay was married in Perry County, Pennsylvania, where he remained for about six years after his marriage and then moved in 1832 to Wayne County, Ohio, where he died aged 40 years. In 1840 his widow and family moved to Mercer County and located in Dublin township on a farm of 160 acres, now known as the Perry Harris farm. There were seven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Clay, as follows: Adam, William, Levi, Henry, Hester, Emeline and John M. Adam, who was born November 12, 1819, and died in June, 1884, was a resident of Miamisburg, Montgomery County, Ohio, practicing law at Dayton. He served as a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1873. He married Sophia Dubbs and they had two children. William died February 12, 1876, aged 54 years, the day he was entering upon his second term as probate judge of Mercer County. He married Jane Rice of Pennsylvania and after her death married Catherine Krugh. Levi was born in August, 1824, and died in 1850. Hester was born December 22, 1829, and died in September, 1886; her husband, Henry Boroff, is also deceased. Emeline died in Wayne County, Ohio, aged four years. John M., who was born July 6, 1836, is a resident of Union township, Mercer County. Mrs. Clay remained in Mercer County, making her home with her son Henry until her death, which occurred in 1878 in her 80th year. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Mell, moved from Pennsylvania to Wayne County, Ohio, where the former died. His widow married a Mr. Messinger, who died in Indiana. She had one daughter by this marriage. Mrs. Messinger died in Wayne County, Ohio, at the advanced age of 98 years.

Henry Clay, subject of this sketch, was six years of age when his parents moved to Wayne County, Ohio, where he lived until he was about 14 years old. His father having died, the mother then moved to Mercer County, where our subject has lived since he was 14 years old. He was married in 1857 to Sarah Ann Yocum, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Shelly) Yocum, who were natives of Pennsylvania. To them were born four children, namely: Mary Elizabeth, Stephen A., William Perry and Emma. Mary Elizabeth married James Agler and at her death left four children, as follows: Reuben J., Alice, Eva and Arthur. Stephen A. married Harriet Tingley, a daughter of John and Martha (Baltzell) Tingley and has two children: Ethel, who married Thomas Youngblutt, a resident of Lewisburg, Ohio; and Alwilda, who is in school. Stephen A. is a resident of Rockford and owns a farm near Rockford and also one in Union township. He resided for many years in Union township and is a successful business man as well as a farmer. His property is well improved with new houses and barns. William Perry, who

is a practicing physician at Convoy, Van Wert County, is a graduate of Starling Medical College, Columbus, Ohio, has been engaged in the practice of medicine for some years and ranks high in his profession. His first marriage was with Mary Electa Sprain, from which union one child resulted—Henry. After her death, Dr. Clay married Elizabeth Tingley, a teacher of Cincinnati, and had two children—Grace and Edmund. His third marriage was with Mary Ellen Jones. Emma married Napoleon Bonaparte Boroff and resides in Van Wert County. She has had three children, of whom two are living—Josie and Mabel.

The second marriage of Mr. Clay was with Mrs. Lydia Yocum, a daughter of Mr. Barner. To them were born two children, namely: Ella E., who lives at home with her parents; and Viola Belle, who died aged 10 months.

Mr. Clay is a Democrat in politics. He was made a Mason at Celina in 1862 and is the only living charter member of Shane's Lodge, No. 377, F. & A. M., at Rockford. He has been a member of the Church of God for 46 years.

BARNEY GRIESHOP

Barney Grieshop, a well-known, representative farmer of Marion township, residing on his fine farm of 160 acres, situated on the Chickasaw and New Bremen road, was born March 7, 1848, and is a son of John Henry and Helena (Sheper) Grieshop.

The parents of Mr. Grieshop came to America in the fall of 1847, and in the following spring bought the farm on which our subject now resides. They had the following children: Mrs. Catherine B. Wilkie; Mrs. Elizabeth Barhorst; Henry, a resident of Marion township, who married Mary Anna Hinders; and Barney, who was the only one of the family born in America. The mother of our subject died in 1849 during the prevalence of the cholera epidemic. The father was subsequently married several times and died in 1888. He was one of the pioneers of Marion township and worked hard for many years.

Barney Grieshop was raised a farmer and has always followed agricultural pursuits, with very successful results. He purchased the homestead farm from his father prior to the latter's death in 1888, and here he has resided ever since. His farm is well located, has good improvements and would command a high price if put upon the market. In 1873 in partnership with his brother Henry, he engaged in making brick, which business was continued for a period, their large farming and stock-raising interests not being neglected in the meantime.

On November 22, 1874, Mr. Grieshop was married to Mary Rutschlling,

a daughter of Henry and Mary Rutschlling, who were natives of Germany. Mrs. Grieshop was born in Auglaize County, Ohio, in September, 1854, and died in November, 1899. Her father died in October, 1898, and her mother, December 30, 1905. Her brothers and sisters were: John, Henry, Elizabeth, Delia, Richard, August, Joseph and Frederick. Mr. and Mrs. Grieshop had eight children, namely: Henry, who married Minnie Morthorst; Anna M., who married Jacob A. Froning; Helena, the wife of Dr. H. G. Rawers, of Chickasaw; Julius; Elizabeth; Louise; Catherine P. and Dora Ann. Mr. Grieshop is one of the valued members of St. John's Catholic Church.

JOHN M. CLAY

JOHN M. CLAY, a representative citizen of Union township, owning 80 acres of excellent farming land which is under a fine state of cultivation, has been a resident of this county for 66 years. He was born in Wayne County, Ohio, July 6, 1836, and is the youngest of eight children born to his parents, Henry and Mary Elizabeth (Mell) Clay.

The Clay family is distributed over many States of the Union and the father of our subject bore the same name as did Kentucky's great statesman, and in all probability the early stock was the same. The branch from which our subject came, however, belonged in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, and there the paternal grandfather, John Clay, lived and reared his family. The maternal grandfather, Adam Mell, lived in Pennsylvania until he moved to Wayne County, Ohio, where he died.

Henry Clay, father of John M., was born and married in Pennsylvania, but moved to Wayne County, Ohio, prior to the birth of our subject. There he died aged 40 years, when John M. was two years old. All the other children were born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, these being: Adam, deceased in 1885, who lived at Miamisburg but practiced law at Dayton—he married Sophia Dubbs and left a family of two children; William, who died just as he was entering upon his second term as probate judge of Mercer County—his wife was Jane Rice, and his second, Catherine Krugh; Levi, who died in young manhood; Henry, a venerable resident of Union township, born in May, 1826, who owns valuable farming lands in this locality—he has been twice married and has four surviving children; Hester, deceased, who was the wife of the late Henry Boroff, of Dublin township—four of their children survive; and Emeline, who died in Wayne County, aged five years.

When our subject was four years old, his mother, accompanied by her children, removed from Wayne to Mercer County and on May 1, 1840, located on a farm in Dublin township, a little southwest of where Mr. Clay now

lives. The family entered the land from the government, paying $1.25 an acre for the same, and here the children all grew to maturity. An uncle of our subject, Christian Clay, also settled in Mercer County, locating in Union township about this time.

Pioneer conditions prevailed to a large extent when Mrs. Clay and her family came to this part of Mercer County. The older sons took charge of the farm while John M., the youngest, had his education to secure. He first attended subscription schools and he recalls that for two quarters he was a pupil under a full-blooded Indian teacher, a man who had been reared and educated among the whites. Later, district schools were established and, although sessions were then only held during three months, the children of the locality during that limited period were very thoroughly drilled in reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic. He soon grew useful on the home farm and worked for his mother until his marriage, and by the month for neighboring farmers.

After his marriage, Mr. Clay moved first to his brother William's farm, where he remained from the early spring until July, when he moved to his brother Henry's farm, which is now owned by Stephen Clay, and this farm he operated until the folowing spring, when he removed to the Branson Roebuck farm. After one year there, he moved with his family to his mother's house, where he remained for seven years, going then to the Henry Cisco farm, near Mendon, where he remained for two years, finally settling on his present farm where he has lived for the last 39 years. He has witnessed many changes in the country since first settling here and can remember when conditions of all kinds were very different. Very little land in this locality had then been put under cultivation and absolutely no draining had been done. In all that concerned the development and improvement of the township, Mr. Clay has always been an interested and public-spirited citizen.

In 1856 he was married to Sevilla Baltzell, who was born in Dublin township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Henry and Mary Baltzell, who came here from Hamilton County, Ohio, some time in the '30's. Mr. Baltzell had cut timber where now stand some of the finest buildings of Cincinnati. He settled and partly cleared what is now known as the Nathan Frysinger farm in Union township. He was born in 1790 and died in 1869, having served in the War of 1812. Mrs. Baltzell died in 1863. The three surviving children of Mr. and Mrs. Baltzell are: Elias, who lives in Wisconsin; Benjamin F., of Petersburg, Illinois; and Mrs. Clay.

Mr. and Mrs. Clay had three children, namely: Francis Marion; William Henry, who died in infancy; and Adam H. Francis Marion married twice. He was born in 1863 and when he attained manhood married Sarah Ann Allen, a daughter of Justin Allen, of Union township. They had a large

family, namely: Orville, who is a teacher; Harry, deceased; Clara, wife of Albert McBride, of Union township, and the mother of one child, Willard; Ota, who married Ira McBride, residing in Union township, southeast of Mendon, and has one child, Carl Ernest; Leroy, a youth of 15 years, residing at home; Norma, who lives with her grandparents; Homer; Earl; Arthur; Edna; Beryl; Wilbur, deceased; and Lloyd, deceased. The mother of these children died in the fall of 1902. Mr. Clay was married (second) to Mrs. Ida (Daring) Norris, a daughter of Joseph Daring, of Union township. Adam H. Clay was born January 24, 1870. He married Ella Stump, a daughter of Joseph Stump, of Union township, and they have six living children and one, Lela, deceased. The others are: Edith, Heber J., Ralph, Goldie Irene, Grace and Myrtle. These descendants of Mr. and Mrs. Clay are numbered with the most highly respected people of the northern section of Mercer County. They are all intelligent, enterprising and patrons of the public schools and hearty supporters of the church and promoters of moral movements in their communities.

In political affiliation, Mr. Clay is a Democrat. While not an active one in the sense of seeking office for himself or others, he has always believed in the principles of the party and voted for them at the polls. In religious connection both Mr. and Mrs. Clay are consistent members of the Church of God. They are widely known throughout Dublin and Union townships and in all gatherings of old settlers they are more or less prominent. Their recollections reach so far back in the settlement of this rich section of Mercer County that their tales of the early days when forests stood on the land where are now rich farming fields and are located comfortable homes, many of which are in touch with electric lines and are visited by the rural mail carrier, are as interesting as any book of romance ever written.

HENRY GRIESHOP

Henry Grieshop, one of the most highly respected citizens of Marion township, who owns a well-improved farm of 255 acres, enjoys the distinction of being the oldest continuous resident of the township, to which he came in childhood. Mr. Grieshop was born in Oldenburg, Germany, October 22, 1839, and is a son of John Henry and Helena (Sheper) Grieshop.

The Grieshop family came to America in 1845 and lived one year at Minster, Ohio, and then settled on a farm the father bought in Marion township, Mercer County. Our subject recalls the day, for he was permitted to fish from the bank of the stream traversing the property, probably the first fishing he had ever had, and he had the pleasure of catching some catfish,

which must have appeared pretty large to him. During the second year on the farm, the mother died. There were four children, namely: Mrs. Catherine B. Wilkie; Mrs. Elizabeth Barhorst; Henry; and Barney, the last named, who is a resident of Marion township, being the only one of the four born in America. The father subsequently married Lena Brenemeyer, of Cincinnati. After her death he married Mrs. Holtman, a widow with four children, and after her death took as his wife Mary Ann Froning. He died on our subject's farm, in 1888.

Henry Grieshop was reared amid pioneer conditions and had few opportunities to go to school. He can remember that when his father came to Marion township, a path had to be blazed through the woods. Wild turkeys could be shot any day and the deer were so plentiful and so tame that they would come to the horse trough in his father's barnyard to slake their thirst and often had to be driven away before the cattle could be watered. It took many years of hard work to change the forest into a productive farm. Other settlers penetrated the same wilderness; roads were finally built by a combination of industry; schools, churches, good houses and barns followed; and now the rural mail route and the telephone link even remote regions with the oldest and most civilized.

Mr. Grieshop has devoted his energies mainly to farming, but he has been a man of progressive ideas and much enterprise and has been able to see a chance to increase his fortunes in several other ways. During the Civil War he bought horses for the government, a necessary and legitimate business. Later he entered into the cattle business and success crowned his efforts in that line. At one time, in partnership with his brother, he ran a brickyard. Since 1875 he has devoted himself to agricultural pursuits, purchasing his farm in that year from Philip Smith. When he settled on it he found an old brewery standing here, which he tore down and near its site he erected his handsome, brick, eight-room residence and also built his substantial barns and other buildings. He has his land enclosed with a hedge fence and his surroundings show excellent management and a large measure of thrift. The turnpike which forms the southern boundary of his property was formerly an old plank toll-road.

Mr. Grieshop was married in 1863 to Mary Anna Hinders, a daughter of Dietrich Hinders, who was a contractor on the canal. They have had 12 children, namely: Catherine, who married Henry Schwietermann; John, who married Anna Luthman; Lena, widow of Joseph Windt; Barney, who married Mary Meinerding; Rosa, who married Joseph Meinerding; Louis, who married Mary Link; Frank, who married (first) Rose Steinke and (second) Kate Roeckner—his daughter Janetta, by his first wife, lives with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Grieshop; Augustus, who is in the hardware business

at Chickasaw; William, Clara and Adaline, living at home; and Benjamin, who died in infancy.

Mrs. Grieshop was born in Marion township, Mercer County, Ohio, February 27, 1848, her parents having settled here at an early day. Her brothers and sisters were: Catherine, Elizabeth, Mary, Gerhardt and John, all deceased, the survivors being Richard, William and Margaret.

Mr. Grieshop is one of the leading members of the Most Precious Blood Catholic Church at Chickasaw. He belongs also to St. Joseph's Society. He can recall many very interesting events of the township's early days. One of these is a description of the manner in which the first negroes were treated, when the country was settled. He tells how men were organized to drive them away, meeting the blacks with clubs, pitchforks and even guns. In those days popular sentiment was shown in a very primitive way and at this time Mercer County has no very large contingent of negroes.

BERNARD SCHLARMAN

Bernard Schlarman, one of the representative farmers of Mercer County, owns 200 acres of fine land, 160 of which are situated in section 32, Granville township, and 40 of which are just across the road in Gibson township. Mr. Schlarman was born in January, 1840, at Rose Garden (St. Rosa), Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of John and Engel (Beckman) Schlarman.

The father of our subject came from Germany in young manhood, locating immediately in Mercer County, Ohio. He bought a farm near Rose Garden, soon married, and on that farm both he and his wife died. He had four children, namely: Bernard, of this sketch; Henry, who married Mary Herke, and lives on the old farm; and Frank and Mary, both deceased.

Bernard Schlarman remained on the home farm until his marriage, when about 30 years of age, and then bought his present farm. At that time it was still wild land, heavily timbered. His first work was to clear a place on which to erect his log house, which, in time, gave way to his present comfortable frame one. Mr. Schlarman has spent many years of hard work here, but now has a fine estate, which he successfully cultivates with the assistance of his three sons.

Mr. Schlarman was married in 1870 to Anna Barbara Balmert, who was born in Lorain County, Ohio, July 8, 1853, and is a daughter of Philip and Barbara (Wise) Balmert. The parents of Mrs. Schlarman were born and married in Germany. After coming to America, they settled in Lorain County, where all their children were born. Later they removed to Mercer County, but subsequently sold their first farm to George Send and bought a

smaller farm and there they died, highly respected residents of their neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. Balmert had five children, namely: Caroline, who married Valentine Riddlesberger and lives on the home place; Anna Barbara, wife of Mr. Schlarman; Joseph, who has a reputation all through Mercer County as an expert bridge builder, who married Catherine Helens and lives at Burkettsville; George, a farmer in Mercer County, who married Theresa Daken; and John, a resident of Covington, Kentucky, engaged in railroad work, who married Elizabeth Billiman. Mrs. Schlarman was about 12 years old when her parents moved to Mercer County.

Mr. and Mrs. Schlarman have three stalwart, manly sons, all of whom still live at home. They are: John, born August 27, 1877; Joseph, born May 16, 1879; and Henry, born July 4, 1881. They are well-educated young men and, in addition to farming, operate a threshing machine, owning the outfit. The family are members of St. Paul's Catholic Church, at Sharpsburg.

AARON MORTEN LOWRY

Aaron Morten Lowry, one of the largest landholders of Gibson township, owning 400 acres of valuable farm land in this township, as well as 80 acres just across the County line in Darke County, was born in Jefferson County, New York, May 14, 1823, and is a son of Benajah and Philena (Grinnel) Lowry, both natives of New Yory State, who died in Gibson township, Mercer County.

Aaron M. Lowry spent his early boyhood days in New York State, and when 15 years old accompanied his parents to Ohio. They located in Clark County, where they remained until 1860. Our subject remained in Clark County one year after the removal of his parents to Mercer County. While in that county he was engaged in carpentering for a number of years. In 1861, in company with his wife and two children, he moved to Mercer County and located on a farm of 80 acres which he had purchased in 1850. This land was all covered with timber, which has since been cleared; many other improvements have been made, including new buildings.

Mr. Lowry was married November 1, 1854, in Clark County, Ohio, to Elizabeth A. Bireley, and they have had four children: William Henry, a sketch of whom will be found in this work; Lyman Leslie, living on the farm with his father, who married Elizabeth Ulner, a daughter of Daniel Ulner, and has one child, Zella; Sarah Elmaretta, who married Charles Hastings, lives in the State of Washington and has three children—Anna, Sherman and Eva; and a child that died in infancy. In politics Mr. Lowry is a Republican.

GILES PETER MURLIN

GILES PETER MURLIN, a successful and enterprising farmer of Union township, residing on his farm of 120 acres in sections 33 and 28, was born on the farm where he now resides, June 5, 1849, and is a son of Daniel and Laura (Davis) Murlin.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was John Murlin, a native of Ireland, who moved to Kentucky in 1816, from the State of New York, after having resided a number of years in Ontario County. He married Sarah Doderer, who was of German descent and a resident of New York. They were the parents of 10 children—three sons, and seven daughters. The sons —Daniel, Abram and William—all came to Ohio and settled. Four daughters, among whom were Betsey, Caroline, wife of Milton Wright, and Mrs. Amos Barber, also came to Ohio. The three others, among whom were Mrs. Jane Burbey and Sarah (Mrs. John Rider), remained in Kentucky.

Daniel Murlin was born in Ontario County, New York, December 28, 1798, and removed to Hardin County, Kentucky, in 1816, with his parents. He became one of the pioneers of Union township, Mercer County. His first marriage was in 1819 to Sarah Brown. Seven children were born to this union, namely: Adelaide, who married William Roebuck and resided in Union township until after the death of her husband, when she married the late Loomis Shanklin—she is now nearly 80 years old and resides with her daughter; Susan, about 80 years old, who married Justus Davis and has lived all her life in Center township; Albert, who lived in Auglaize County until a few years before his death, when he moved to Mendon, where he received the final summons; Eleanor, who married Andrew Thompson and resided for a number of years in Center township, after which she moved with her husband to Iowa—both are now deceased; Theresa, deceased; John; and Pearly Ann, deceased, who was the wife of George Purdy.

The second marriage of Daniel Murlin occurred in 1836, Laura Davis, a daughter of Samuel Davis, becoming his wife. Samuel Davis was born in Ontario County, New York, and later moved to Miami County, Ohio, coming in 1834 to Mercer County, Ohio, and settling on the northwest quarter of section 35, Union township, where he remained until his death in 1868. His wife, Laura (Spicer) Davis, who died in 1866, was a daughter of Samuel Spicer, who was born on the ocean. There were born to Samuel and Laura (Spicer) Davis, the maternal grandparents of our subject, the following children: Samuel, deceased; Laura, the mother of our subject; Justus, deceased; Carney, deceased; Mary, who married Albert Murlin; Eliza, who married Marshall Culver and died in Muncie, Indiana—Mr. Culver resides in Kansas.

Daniel and Laura (Davis) Murlin had seven children, as follows:

William, deceased in August, 1865, who enlisted, in December, 1861, in Company D, 71st Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., under Captain Goodwin, who organized the company, and served until the close of the war; Jerusha, who married C. B. Collins, a prosperous citizen of Union township, July 1, 1865, and died July 2, 1866; Mary, a resident of Columbus, Ohio, who is the widow of J. J. Phillips whom she married in April, 1865; Samuel, who was among the fortunate when the oil boom reached the section of Auglaize County where he owned and operated a farm, and who is now retired, living at St. Marys, where he has built a home; Giles Peter, the subject of this sketch; Eliza, who married John Moore and resides in Center township, and Josephine, who died aged four years. Daniel Murlin died in 1875 at the age of 77 and his wife died in 1878, aged 62 years.

Giles P. Murlin has lived all his life on the farm where he was born. He received his education in the township schools, working on the farm during the summer and attending school in the winter. There was but little land cleared when Mr. Murlin began assisting with the work, and there were but few houses on the road to St. Marys. The farm was situated on one of the old Indian Trails and there was a bark shanty on the place which had been built by the Indians.

Mr. Murlin was married December 2, 1882, to Susan Barber, a daughter of Warren and Sallie Barber, of Union township. Mr. Murlin has one child, Josephine, who married Alpha Miller, a native of Auglaize County, on November 26, 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have two children, Dwight Murlin and Clayton Leon, and reside with the subject of this sketch. Mr. Murlin has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church for 44 years. He is a Republican, but reserves the right and privilege to support the best man for office. Mr. Murlin is a man of pleasing address and stands high in the estimation of his fellow-citizens.

JOHN JUTTE

John Jutte, a prosperous farmer of Recovery township, who resides on his well-improved farm of 100 acres in section 1, was born in Washington township, Mercer County, Ohio, February 27, 1853, and is a son of Theodore and Catherine (Flotamas) Jutte.

Theodore Jutte and his wife were both born, reared, educated and married in Germany. They came to the United States in 1846, locating in Washington township on a farm of 80 acres which Theodore bought from his father, Henry Jutte, who had come from Germany in 1844, and had purchased 80 acres of timberland in Washington township. The land which

Theodore Jutte bought from his father was all timberland, which he cleared and built a log cabin on the place. The forest was inhabited by game of all kinds, including deer, wild turkeys, wolves, etc. Mr. Jutte experienced many hardships incidental to pioneer life. Theodore Jutte died in Washington township, September 7, 1887, and his wife survived him until August 16, 1890. They were the parents of six children: Mary, wife of Samuel Jacob, residing in Uniontown, Washington; Theodore, who resides at Genesee, Idaho; John; Bernard, who lives in Recovery township; Peter, who died in Uniontown, Washington, aged 46 years; and Philomena, who died aged nine years.

John Jutte was reared in Washington township, and received such an education as could be obtained in the period of his youth. Mr. Jutte moved to Recovery township immediately after his marriage, and located on his present farm, which then consisted entirely of timberland. He has made many improvements upon the place and now has one of the best improved and most highly cultivated farms in the township.

Mr. Jutte was married November 3, 1875, to Hannah Whitman, a daughter of Michael and Mary (Penter) Whitman, and has eight children, as follows: Catherine, who married Joseph Post of Jay County, Indiana, and has three children—John, Ferdinand and Minnie; Minnie, who married Jacob Wikle, of Washington township, and has four children—Emma, John, Henrietta and Albert; Barney, who married Elizabeth Homan and has three children—Mary, Theodore and Edward; John, who married Lizzie Custer; Peter; William; Clara, who died aged eight years, and Mary, who married Frank Post, of Washington township, and had three children—William, Clara (who died aged two years) and Matilda.

Mr. Jutte is a prominent Democrat of Recovery township, and has served on the Democratic County Central Committee twice and has also served on the School Board. He is a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church.

XAVIER RENTZ

Xavier Rentz, an old and highly respected German citizen of Butler township, and the owner of one of the best improved farms of this locality, consisting of 149½ acres of splendid farming land, was born in Germany, December 2, 1830, and is a son of Anthony and Agnes (Baumgartner) Rentz.

When our esteemed subject was one year old or a little more, his parents embarked on a sailing vessel with the expectation of being safely landed on American shores. The vessel, however, proved unseaworthy, and they suffered shipwreck and clung to the vessel for a day and a half after it foundered on a rock before they were rescued. They lost all their possessions but were

thankful to escape with their lives and were subsequently landed in safety at Charleston, South Carolina. The family lived some years at Greenville, Darke County, Ohio, before they came to Mercer County, in 1847, and settled at Chickasaw, where the father followed his trade of tailor. Xavier Rentz was about 17 years old when he became a farmer in Marion township, Mercer County. Subsequently he acquired a farm of 235 acres, which he has recently deeded to two sons, August and Anthony. In 1895 Mr. Rentz settled on his present farm which is operated by his son Henry, who is a very capable and careful farmer.

Xavier Rentz married Barbara Fecher, who was also born in Germany, and they have had 12 children, of whom six are now living, as follows: John, Theresa, Anthony, Anna, August and Henry W. Of those that are deceased, the eldest son, Joseph, died aged six months, and August (the first of the name) died aged three and a half years. Xavier died aged two months and Mary died aged 33 years. Frank is also deceased. Joseph (2nd), another deceased son, was a most promising young man, who had been carefully educated. After teaching school at Kenosha, Wisconsin, he went to St. Paul, Minnesota, where he became assistant city treasurer. He afterwards went to the State of Washington, where he took up a claim of 160 acres. Later still he engaged in partnership with a Mr. Passemeyer, in the grocery business at Tacoma, Washington, of which city he became a prominent man. He served as organist in the Catholic Church there. He died at Tacoma, December 16, 1891, at the age of 26 years.

John Rentz, the eldest surviving son, has been an instructor in a large Catholic school at St. Paul, Minnesota, for the past 25 years. He is a talented and well-educated man; he was first a pupil at Chickasaw, spent one year at St. Mary's Institute at Dayton, Ohio, and completed his education at St. Francis, near Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He married Mary Rosenberger and they have four children, all of whom are well educated; Hilda, the eldest, is librarian of the St. Paul Public Library and in addition is organist in the Catholic Cathedral. Theresa is the widow of Barney Mestemaker, of Chickasaw, and the mother of four children. Anthony married Mary Heyne and has 13 children. Anna married Andrew Stammen and lives at New Weston, Darke County. August married Anna Rose, lives on the farm he purchased from his father and has six children. Henry W. was born at Chickasaw, Mercer County, Ohio, January 29, 1874. He was reared and educated at Chickasaw and has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits. On April 27, 1899, he was married to Elizabeth Pleiman and they have five children, as follows: Matilda, Rosa, Urban, Joseph and Arnold. Henry W. Rentz is treasurer of the township School Board.

Xavier Rentz has been for years a leading member of St. Mary's Cath-

olic Church at Philothea and has reared his family carefully in the precepts of this church. Both he and his son Henry W. are wardens in the church, and Mr. Rentz also fills the office of treasurer. He has always been interested in the educational progress of his community, has given his children excellent advantages and for 25 years was a member of the School Board in Marion township.

RICHARD SEVERNS

Richard Severns, a prosperous farmer and one of the leading citizens of Union township, where he owns a fine, well-improved farm of 140 acres, was born in Shelby County, Ohio, March 15, 1844, and is a son of Joseph and Catherine (Duffy) Severns.

The parents of Mr. Severns came to Ohio from Virginia and located in Shelby County, but later moved to Mercer County and settled on the farm in Union township, that is now owned by Joseph Severns. It consisted of 160 acres. Both parents died on this farm, the father in 1879, at the age of 79 years; the death of the mother followed later. Joseph and Catherine Severns had eight children, as follows: Franklin, deceased in 1900, whose widow, Mrs. Amanda (Boroff) Severns, is a resident of Union township; Mary, who married J. M. Hussey and resides in Union township; John, who died unmarried; Margaret, who first married Joseph McNicol and is now the wife of Milton Denison, living at Spencerville, Ohio; Francis, who died in the army in 1862, unmarried; Richard; Joseph, residing on the old homestead, who married Martha Jane Griffin, a daughter of Claudius and Elizabeth Griffin; and William R., who lives in Union township, near Mendon.

Richard Severns was eight years old when his parents, in 1852, came to Union township and settled in what was practically the forest. He remained on the farm assisting in the work until August 31, 1862, when he enlisted in Company E, 118th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., under Captain Kennedy and Lieut. I. B. Robbins. The regiment was attached to the Second Brigade, Second Division, 23rd Army Corps, and was mustered in at Camp Lima. His service was in Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama and at the time of the closing of the war he was in North Carolina. He participated in many battles, including Nashville, Franklin and Dalton and went through the Atlanta campaign. He vividly recalls the battle of Franklin, one of the notable ones of the war. For four months he was never out of the sound of cannonading. He was once struck with a spent ball and on one occasion a bullet struck the rim of his hat. On one occasion he was in a detail of 20 skirmishers of whom 13 were killed or wounded while on this duty. Mr. Severns' brother Francis was a member of the 46th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf. Mr. Severns is one of

probably 25 survivors of the old regiment, who have earned and enjoyed the admiration and gratitude of their fellow-citizens. Mr. Severns was honorably discharged on June 24, 1865, at Salisbury, North Carolina.

After the close of the war, Mr. Severns returned to Mercer County, where he has ever since resided. In 1873 he purchased the farm on which he resides, 30 acres of which had been cleared, and has completed the clearing of all but 10 acres. In 1878 he erected his handsome home and later his substantial barn and has made many improvements which make this one of the attractive homes of Union township. He carries on mixed farming and raises some stock. In addition to a natural fertility, the farm is also valuable on account of several oil-wells having been developed on it.

In April, 1869, Mr. Severns was married to Mary Gross, who was a daughter of Peter and Mary Gross, of Union township. To this union were born two children, namely: Etta L. and George, the latter of whom died at the age of three months. Etta L. married J. H. Tomlinson, a farmer of Union township, and has five children: William, Olga, Gayle, Orril and Mary. Mrs. Severns died in 1882. Mr. Severns was married (second), in January, 1886, to Annie Moler, who is a daughter of Abraham and Martha Moler. They have one child, Edna. Politically, Mr. Severns is identified with the Democratic party.

BENJAMIN HELLWARTH

Benjamin Hellwarth, a representative agriculturist and well-known citizen of Hopewell township, resides on his well-improved farm of 160 acres, situated in section 21. On this farm he was born, February 18, 1854, being a son of George M. and Margaret (Wappas) Hellwarth, both natives of Germany.

George M. Hellwarth served six years in early manhood in the German Army and then emigrated to the United States, in 1831. Three years later he entered land from the government in Hopewell township, Mercer County, Ohio—the present homestead of our subject. In clearing, improving and cultivating this farm, George M. Hellwarth spent his whole subsequent life, which closed about 1865. He was a most worthy man in every relation of life. He was one of the early members of the Evangelical Association in his locality. His political views were in accord with the tenets of the Democratic party.

Benjamin Hellwarth was reared to manhood on his present farm and in boyhood attended the district schools. He has always followed agricultural pursuits and in addition to the home farm owns 160 acres of land in Indiana. When he reached man's estate, he married Lena J. Will, a native

MR. AND MRS. LEWIS PLATT

of Hopewell township and a daughter of George Will, a Civil War soldier, who was an old settler here but did not long survive the hardships of army life, dying soon after his return from the service. Mr. and Mrs. Hellwarth have four children, as follows: Ronello Blaine, Richard Garfield, Ray McKinley and Arlen Roosevelt. The family belong to the Evangelical Association.

In political sentiment, Mr. Hellwarth is an ardent Republican and an active supporter of its candidates and a firm believer in its principles. He is one of the township's most successful farmers as well as most public-spirited citizens and enjoys the esteem, respect and confidence of his fellow-citizens.

LEWIS PLATT

Lewis Platt, one of the representative farmers of Butler township, who resides on his valuable farm of 80 acres, situated in section 16, was born in Germany, May 4, 1839, and is a son of Conrad and Mary Magdalen (Steinmiller) Platt.

The father of Mr. Platt died in Germany, when our subject was a child of four years. The mother struggled on as best she could for the next four years and then decided to emigrate to America where her boys could find better opportunities than in the old country. With her six children she landed in Mercer Couny, Ohio, in August, 1847, and remained for a time in Butler township. The mother then married Peter Gehron, a weaver by trade, who took the family to Montezuma, and in and around that village our subject was reared and educated. He also learned the carpenter's trade and was prepared to work at the same when the Civil War came upon the land. On October 16, 1861, Mr. Platt enlisted in Company A, 71st Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., which was forming at Celina, and shortly afterward was promoted to the rank of corporal and at Gallatin, Tennessee, on December 1, 1863, won his commission as sergeant. He participated in many of the most important battles of the cruel war and saw much of its hardship. At the battle of Shiloh or Pittsburg Landing, he was captured by the enemy and was confined at Memphis, Tennessee, taken from there to Mobile and Cahaba, Alabama, and thence to Macon, Georgia, where he was paroled. He then started for home but was stopped by Union troops at Nashville, who wished to detain him as a guard and it was with difficuty that he escaped this duty, accomplishing it only by desperately "bolting" through the guards and boarding the transport steamer "General Grant." The paroled men were again stopped at Louisville, Kentucky, but at Cincinnati received transportation to their homes. As the war still continued, Mr. Platt concluded to reenlist, which he did, at Gallatin,

Tennessee, on January 13, 1865. He remained in the service until his honorable discharge at Camp Dennison, June 13, 1865. Mr. Platt will always carry the marks of his loyal devotion to his adopted country. At the battle of Nashville, Tennessee, on December 16, 1864, he lost the use of his right eye and was otherwise seriously injured, so that he was confined in Brown's Hospital, at Nashville, and later at Camp Dennison, Cincinnati.

After regaining his health, Mr. Platt resumed work at his trade and then settled down to farming. Before the war he had bought 40 acres and completed paying for it while he was in the army; he purchased the other 40 acres in 1865, just after the close of the war. This beautiful property has all been cleared and improved by Mr. Platt himself. He has substantial buildings of all kinds here, has excellent, modern machinery and owns considerable stock, all of this property having been accumulated by his own honest toil. In the meantime he has reared a family in comfort and has given his children superior educational advantages.

On December 5, 1867, Mr. Platt was united in marriage with Brittana Frank, a daughter of Joseph Frank, and they have had 10 children, as follows: Fidella, born August 17, 1868, who married John Koons, and died May 9, 1894, leaving one child, Floyd Edward, who lives with his grandfather; Mary Elizabeth, who lives at home; Sarah Lena, also living at home, who is a graduate of the Ohio Normal University at Ada, and of schools at Hartsville and Huntington, Indiana, has been a popular teacher in Mercer County and is now studying for the ministry of the Radical United Brethren Church at Huntington, Indiana, class of 1907; Zerilda, born November 21, 1873, who died October 24, 1895; Pearly, who married Rev. William Kindel, of the United Brethren Church, at Delphos, Ohio, and had one child that died in infancy; Eva, who died in infancy; Melissa, who resides at home; George A.; and Carrie and Belle, both of whom are at home. Mr. Platt's only son, George A. Platt, was born August 17, 1881, and from boyhood, as a student in the district schools, showed unusual aptness in his studies. After completing the ordinary course he taught school for three years, beginning when 18 years old, and then entered Oberlin College, where he was most creditably graduated, May 3, 1904. He next went to Columbus and took a special course in penmanship at the Zanerian College and then for a period of nine months, in 1905, he taught penmanship and bookkeeping in the Elwood (Indiana) High School. He is now in the clothing business at South Bend, Indiana.

Mr. Platt is one of the leading members of the Radical United Brethren Church and is one of the trustees. He is a man of sterling character and enjoys the respect and esteem of his fellow-citizens. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Platt accompany this sketch.

CHARLES SEVERNS

CHARLES SEVERNS, a prosperous farmer of Center township, where he owns three farms of 80 acres each, was born in Union township, Mercer County, Ohio, April 14, 1860, and is a son of Franklin and Amanda (Boroff) Severns.

Franklin Severns was born in Miami County, Ohio, in 1832, and his death occurred in 1900. He moved to Mercer County, in the early '40's and settled on the farm where his brother Joseph now resides. There he lived until his death, which occurred in 1900. Mr. Severns was a son of Joseph and Catherine (Duffy) Severns. Joseph Severns was born in 1800 and died in 1879, the death of his wife occurring later. Joseph and Catherine Severns had eight children, as follows: Franklin, the father of the subject of this sketch; Mary, who married J. M. Hussey and resides in Union township; John, who died unmarried; Margaret, who first married Joseph McNicol and is now the wife of Milton Denison, living at Spencerville, Ohio; Francis, who died in the army in 1862, unmarried; Richard, who married Mary Gross and resides in Union township; Joseph, residing on the old homestead, who married Martha Jane Griffin; and William R., who resides in Union township near Mendon. Mrs. Severns, the mother of our subject, was a daughter of William Harrison and Rebecca (Ross) Boroff. William Harrison Boroff was born in Dublin township, Mercer County, in 1812. Rebecca (Ross) Boroff was born February 26, 1821, in Franklin County, Ohio.

The following children were born to William Harrison Boroff and his wife: Amanda, the mother of our subject, born December 24, 1838; Alfred, who resides in the South; Mary Melissa, who died in childhood; John R.; Nancy Ann, who married Charles Hardesty and resides at Spencerville, Ohio; Elizabeth, who married Reuben Haynes and resides east of Van Wert, Ohio; Sylvia, who died in childhood; Henry M., who lives in Hardin County, Ohio; William H. and Lewis R., who died in childhood; Jacob Alexander, who resides northeast of Elgin, Ohio; Jennie and Richard (twins), the former the wife of Lewis Edward Fox of Union township—the latter married Elizabeth Goodwin and lives in Union township; Benjamin, who resides in Union township; and Robert L., a resident of Muncie, Indiana.

Eight children were born to Franklin Severns and his wife: Belle, who married George Washington Willcutt, of Union township; Charles, the subject of this sketch; Emma, who married John Kelly, of Union township, and resides on the Claudius Griffin place; Alice, who married R. H. Smith and lives in Colorado; Ruth, who married Harry Robbins and lives at Mendon; Joseph, residing in Union township on the Custer farm, who married a daughter of George Custer, of Union township; Florence, who married Richard

Crays and lives in Illinois; John, who married a daughter of Charles Hamilton, of Center township, and resides in the oil fields of Illinois.

Charles Severns, the subject of this sketch, was reared to manhood on his father's farm in Union township. In 1879, when 19 years of age, he started out in life for himself, locating on a farm half a mile from his present place. In 1898 he moved to his present farm, where he has since continued to reside, engaged in general farming. He now has three farms of 80 acres each. Mr. Severns raises principally clover, wheat and corn. He feeds his corn to his cattle, of which he always has a large number on hand, fattening them for market. Mr. Severns built his present comfortable home in 1896. He has one of the finest barns in the county, it being 40 by 90 feet in dimensions, with a cement floor; it is about 45 feet in height. Besides being naturally fertile, his land is also valuable because of the discovery of oil, there being at present four fair producing wells; a fifth well has just been drilled.

Mr. Severns was married (first) to Maria Upton, a daughter of Thomas and Mehitable Upton, to which union two children were born—Clayton and Thomas, both of whom are single. Mr. Severns died December 24, 1893. The second marriage was with Edith Hebble, a daughter of Elam and Lorena Hebble, residents of Union township. Three children were born to this union, as follows: Cecil, Frank and Richard. Mr. Severns is a Democrat in politics, but in local affairs votes for the man rather than the party.

ABRAHAM G. FAST

Abraham G. Fast, an old settler and well-known citizen of Mercer County, who is also a survivor of the great Civil War, resides on his well-cultivated farm of 80 acres, which is situated in section 1, Hopewell township. Mr. Fast was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, April 9, 1843, and is a son of Abraham and Mary J. (McGinter) Fast.

The parents of Mr. Fast were also natives of Fairfield County, where their parents had been among the earliest pioneers. Jacob Fast, the great-grandfather of our subject, came to Fairfield County from New Jersey at an extremely early date. In 1852 Abraham G. Fast accompanied his parents from Fairfield to Mercer County, and they settled in Center township, where they were among the early settlers.

Abraham G. Fast was reared in Center township, and enjoyed only the educational advantages offered by the pioneer schools. From his youth up he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits. On February 22, 1864, he enlisted for service in the Civil War, entering Company D, 71st Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and remained in the service almost two years. During this time served

under Generals Sherman and Thomas, and participated in a number of the great marches and battles which occurred in the closing years of the great struggle. He was present at the siege and taking of Atlanta, and after his regiment was attached to the Fourth Army Corps he was engaged in the battle of Franklin, the siege and battle of Nashville, and later was sent to Texas, where this army corps became a part of the Army of Observation. He was honorably discharged in November, 1865, at Columbus, Ohio, having been mustered out in Texas. He immediately returned to Mercer County, of which he has been a resident ever since. Although he was subjected to many dangers, he escaped them all and has the record of a brave, cheerful, faithful soldier.

On January 17, 1867, Mr. Fast was married to Loverda Doty, who was born in Auglaize County, Ohio, June 3, 1850, and is a daughter of Thomas and Rhoda (Hinkle) Doty. The Doty family settled in Auglaize County in early times and when the mother of Mrs. Fast first came there the present busy town of St. Marys had but a few log houses. Mr. and Mrs. Fast have had 13 children, the seven survivors being: Ethan H., of Hopewell township; Thomas Sherman, also of Hopewell township; Mary A., wife of Charles Rickets, of Hopewell township; Rhoda R., wife of Michael Wilson of Union township; and Dee W., Myrtle B. and Icy Sciota, all at home. All the members of this family, including children and grandchildren, are members of the Church of God.

Mr. Fast has been very prominent in the development of this section, encouraging educational progress, moral movements and material improvements. He has served at various times on the School Board of Hopewell township. He is a valued member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at St. Marys. Few men of this section are better or more favorably known.

ELMORE GREEN UPTON

Elmore Green Upton, who is engaged in operating his 80-acre farm in Union township, was born on the old Upton farm, just 60 rods from where he now resides, March 11, 1856. He is a son of John and Martha A. (Hussey) Upton, grandson of Edward Upton and great-grandson of Edward Upton, Sr.

Edward Upton, Sr., lived and died in Hardin County, Kentucky, where many of the Uptons still reside and where is a town named after the family. Edward Upton, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Hardin County, Kentucky, in 1800, and came to Mercer County in 1834. In the early '50's he moved to Richland County, Illinois, and settled on the line of Jasper

County, where he died in the period of the Civil War. He married Annie Murlin, a sister of Daniel Murlin, and 10 children were born to them, eight of whom grew to maturity and moved West, with the exception of John Upton, the father of our subject. These eight were as follows: Margaret, who married Thomas Perry and lived in Richland County, Illinois; John; Isaac, who married Cynthia Malick, a daughter of Uriah Malick; Mary, who married Ebert Trainor and lived and died in Illinois; Sarah, who married John Pope and died in Illinois; Jane, who married William Redmond; Thomas, who married Maria Trainor; and George Washington, who is married and resides in Brookhaven, Mississippi, being the only surviving member of the family. Daniel died at the age of 17 years.

John Upton was born in Hardin County, Kentucky, May 17, 1824, and in 1834 came with his parents to Mercer County, where they settled on a farm now occupied by Hugh L. Hamilton, and where they subsequently bought 160 acres of land. He was married to Martha A. Hussey, a daughter of William and Jane Hussey. She was born July 25, 1829, in Highland County, Ohio, near New Vienna, and when 10 years old came to Union township, Mercer County, with her parents, who settled on what is now known as the Gallman farm, where they passed the remainder of their lives, Mr. Hussey dying in 1865 and his wife, in 1890, in her 82nd year. Martha A. Hussey (Mrs. John Upton) was one of a large family of children, as follows: Mary and Sarah, who died in infancy; John M. and Martha A. (twins), both of whom are living at the age of 77 years; Eunice, who died in young womanhood; Lydia, who married Simon Miller, of St. Marys, Ohio, and has been deceased for 20 years past; Henry, who married Sarah Shepherd and was killed by a team in 1882; Alfred, deceased in 1904, who married Mrs. Riblet, a daughter of Abram Miller; Rachel, who married George G. Parrott—both deceased for many years; William H., who married Marjorie Nelson—he was a lieutenant in the Union Army in the Civil War; Etta, who married Philo Nottingham and after his death in the Civil War, when a member of the Union Army, married his half-brother, Matthew Nottingham, and subsequently died in Michigan; and Jennie, residing at Boulder, Colorado, who is the widow of Isam Brewer Robbins, a captain in the Union Army in the Civil War, deceased in the spring of 1890.

Ten children were born to the parents of our subject, namely: Viola J., who married George Groce and resides at South Park, Indiana, near Indianapolis; Athelia, who died aged two years; Elmore Green; Ida M., who married J. S. Smith and resides at South Lima, Ohio; Etta L., who married John N. Jones and resides in Willshire township, Van Wert County; Minnie, deceased in 1890; Emma E., who married George Monroe, a resident of Spencerville, Ohio; William E., a resident of Van Wert County, who married

Mrs. Mina Robinson, whose maiden name was Williams; Thomas E., who married Gladys Donart and resides at Mendon; and Winnie Lee, who married John Sidney Winney and resides in Ohio City, Van Wert County, Ohio. Our subject's mother is living with her daughter, Mrs. John Sidney Winney, at Ohio City.

Elmore Green Upton was reared and educated in Union township, attending the district schools during the winter months and assisting with the work on the farm. He has always been engaged in farming and is recognized as one of the most prosperous and enterprising farmers of his township. He was married January 18, 1882, to Lettie A. Green, a daughter of William and Louisa (McEvoy) Green, the former of whom, a soldier in the Civil War, lost his life while serving on the "Sultana," which was blown up on the Mississippi River. A daughter, Daisy L., was born to Mr. and Mrs. Upton, December 12, 1882. Mrs. Upton died 11 months from the late of her marriage. Mr. Upton's second marriage occurred in February, 1885, to Mrs. Amelia McLaurin, a daughter of Jesse and Calista A. (Hurd) Beale, the latter a native of Maryland. Mrs. Upton had one daughter by her first marriage, Edith McLaurin, who married Z. M. Watts, of Mendon, Ohio, and has two children, Walter Wiley and Stanley. Both the daughters are graduates of the Mendon High School, graduating with the class of 1901.

Mr. Upton is a Democrat in politics and has served his party in various capacities. He is centeral committeeman from Union township, served as delegate from Mercer County to the recent State convention at Columbus and supported the local option plank at the convention. He has frequently served as delegate to county conventions. He was a member of the School Board for a number of years, being a member of the board when the joint High School was organized. He is now president of the School Board. He is a member of Mendon Lodge, No. 586, F. & A. M., and is a liberal supporter and member of the Baptist Church.

JOHN D. KREMER

John D. Kremer, whose fine farm of 120 acres is situated in section 36, Marion township, was born on his father's farm in Marion township, and is a son of Frank John and Mary (Seitz) Kremer.

The Kremer family has been established in Marion township since about 1836, when the grandparents of our subject, accompanied by the great-grandfather, emigrated from Germany and settled as pioneers here. Frank John Kremer, who was the youngest son of Dietrich Kremer, came into possession of the homestead farm of 160 acres, to which he subsequently added until he

is now one of the largest landowners in Marion township. He married Mary Seitz, who died in 1886. The parents of our subject had 11 children, three of whom are deceased. The survivors are: John D., of this sketch; Elizabeth, who married John Kleinhenz and lives at St. Rosa; Catherine, who married Frank Evers and lives in Granville township; Anton, who married Mary Evers and lives in Granville township; Joseph, who is preparing for the priesthood at St. Charles Seminary, Carthagena; and August, Anna and Frank, all at home.

John D. Kremer was reared on the home farm and went to school in his native township. On November 6, 1895, he was married to Elizabeth Menker, who was born at Maria Stein, Mercer County, November 2, 1874, and was a daughter of Henry and Catherine (Thaman) Menker. Henry Menker was born in Germany and came in young manhood to Mercer County; here he later married Catherine Thaman, who was born in America. They had these children: Elizabeth; Joseph, who married Frances Tobe and lives at Maria Stein; and Mary, who resides at home with her father, her mother having died November 21, 1893.

Mr. and Mrs. Kremer had eight children, namely: Roman, Edward, Lawrence, Cornelius, Sylvester, Clara, Herbert and Werner, all of whom survive except Sylvester, who died October 25, 1904. Mrs. Kremer died September 14, 1906, aged almost 32 years.

Mr. Kremer belongs to a family of good farmers. He purchased his property from his father in 1900, since which time he has been successfully carrying on a general line of farming. His improvements are excellent and his home is a comfortable frame residence of 11 rooms. With his family he belongs to the Catholic Church and he, like his brothers, is a member of St. Joseph's Society.

FRANK JOHN KREMER

Frank John Kremer, a representative citizen and large landholder of Mercer County, resides on his well-improved farm of 220 acres, situated in section 13, Marion township, and owns also another farm of 40 acres which is located across the Roeckner turnpike, and 15 acres more, at St. Johns. Mr. Kremer was born on the farm he now occupies, March 10, 1849, and is a son of Dietrich and Elizabeth (Bieter) Kremer.

The parents of Mr. Kremer, accompanied by the grandfather, Henry Kremer, and their eldest daughter, Elizabeth, came to America and stopped at Cincinnati, Ohio, where the second child, Mary, was soon after born. Elizabeth was two years old at this time. She subsequently married Gerhard Stammen, and Mary married Henry Fonderher. The rest of the children,

as follows, were born in the first old log house that was built on the present farm: Caroline, who married Henry Will; Anna, who married John Reichert; Philomena, who married Joseph Kramer; Catherine, who married John Biehler; Frank John, of this sketch; and Agnes, who married Joseph Roeckner. The father died in March, 1886; the mother in 1880.

Prior to this marriage, Dietrich Kremer had served three years in the German Army. He then followed farming in a small way before coming to America. A short time was passed at Cincinnati, to enable the mother and baby Mary to gain strength for travel, when the family came on to Minster, Auglaize County, where they lived until the father selected a farm in Mercer County. His first purchase was 40 acres of the present farm on which he put up a rough log house, which he later replaced with a better one and still later with a comfortable frame one. To his first purchase he later added 120 acres and when he died left an estate of 160 acres.

Frank John Kremer still resides on the farm settled by his father when he came to Mercer County in 1836. At his father's death, in 1886, he received 160 acres, and to this he has added until now he is one of the largest landowners in the township. He has made many improvements in the way of erecting substantial barns and other farm buildings, and in remodeling his nine-room residence. He is considered a very successful agriculturist.

Mr. Kremer married Mary Seitz, who died in 1886. She was born in America and was a daughter of Max and Anna (Fecher) Seitz, who were natives of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Kremer had 11 children, three of whom are deceased, namely: Henry, Joseph and Mary. Those living are: John D., who married Elizabeth Menker and resides in Marion township; Elizabeth, who married John Kleinhenz and lives at St. Rosa; Catherine, who married Frank Evers and lives in Granville township; Anton, who married Mary Evers and lives in Granville township; Joseph, who is preparing for the priesthood, having spent five and a half years in a college in Indiana and being now in his fifth year at St. Charles Seminary, Carthagena; and August, Anna and Frank, who are at home. The sons all belong to St. Joseph's Society. Mr. Kremer, with all his children, belongs to the Catholic Church, and his 16 grandchildren are being brought up in the same faith. He has never taken any very active part in politics, but has served as school director in his district. As a good citizen and honorable, upright man, he is held in high esteem in his community.

DANIEL FENNIG

Daniel Fennig, a representative farmer of Washington township, resides upon his well-cultivated farm of 80 acres in section 10. He was born

in the house in which he lives, March 27, 1865, and is a son of Jacob and Catherine (Holtser) Fennig.

Jacob Fennig was born in Germany but the greater part of his life was spent in America, as he came here in young manhood. He settled first at Mansfield, Ohio, but later moved to Mercer County. He married Catherine Holtser, who was born in Switzerland, and came to the United States at the age of seven years. She died November 1, 1905, having survived her husband since 1877. They had nine children.

Daniel Fennig is the youngest but one of his parents' children. He obtained his education in the local schools, was reared to be a practical farmer and has remained on the homestead farm.

Mr. Fennig was married on May 22, 1895, to Susan Betz, who died March 15, 1906. She was a most estimable lady and was a daughter of John and Mary (Walters) Betz, who were pioneers of Washington township. Mr. and Mrs. Fenning had three children, namely: Raymond, Foster Andrew and Forrest Lowell.

Politically Mr. Fennig is a strong Democrat. He is a prominent man in his township and has served as township trustee since 1900. He has also served as supervisor. Mr. Fennig belongs to the St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Washington township.

HARRY A. JEWETT

Harry A. Jewett, township trustee, leading citizen and substantial farmer of Jefferson township, residing just east of Celina, was born two miles east of his present home, the old Jewett homestead, now the Samuel A. Nickerson farm, December 22, 1872, and is a son of Adams and Augusta (Baker) Jewett.

The Jewett family was one of the early and prominent ones in the settlement of New England. The Jewetts who apparantly founded the family in America were sons of Edward Jewett, who was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1580, and became a clothier and also a manufacturer of woolen goods. At Bradford, West Riding of Yorkshire, he was married on October 1, 1604, to Mary Taylor, daughter of William Taylor.

Joseph and Maximilian Jewett, sons of Edward Jewett, landed at Boston, Massachusetts, December 1, 1638. They spent the rest of the winter at Salem, Massachusetts, and in 1639 helped to found Rowley, Massachusetts. Our subject is descended from Joseph Jewett, the older of these brothers.

Joseph Jewett was married at Bradford, England, to his first wife, Mary Wallinson, on December 1, 1634. They came to the Colonies with a

large body of Puritans and settled as above stated. This wife died April 12, 1652. On May 13, 1653, he married Mrs. Ann Allen, widow of Bayzaam Allen, of Boston, who died February 8, 1661; his death followed on the 26th of the same month. Joseph Jewett had six children born to his first marriage and three to his second. His fourth child, Nehemiah, became the father of Benjamin Jewett, who was born October 4, 1691, and who was accidentally killed when his son Benjamin was 10 days old.

Benjamin Jewett (2), son of Benjamin and grandson of Nehemiah Jewett, was born January 12, 1716, and became a well-known citizen. He worked as a blacksmith at Manchester, Massachusetts, and later at Berkeley, Connecticut, where he died in 1801. He married Hannah Butler and they had 13 children.

Daniel Jewett, the third son of Benjamin Jewett (2), was born at Manchester, Massachusetts, February 24, 1744, and learned the blacksmith's trade under his father. In 1769, when 25 years of age, he married Zilpah Hibbard, a daughter of Capt. Zebulon and Hannah (Bass) Hibbard, of Windham, Connecticut. In 1774 they moved to Putney, Vermont, where they lived all the rest of their lives on a farm. Mrs. Jewett died March 19, 1829, aged 83 years. He was then 85 years of age but he insisted on following his wife to the graveyard, and as the weather was inclement he contracted pneumonia, of which he died 11 days later. All through the Revolution he was a very active "Liberty Man" and raised a company of militia, of which he was lieutenant. At the battle of Bennington he was taken captive by the British, who kept him a prisoner for six weeks and then carried him to Ticondergo, where he was recaptured by the patriots. After the end of the war he was still a prominent figure and was chosen a member of the Vermont Legislature for 17 terms. He had 10 children.

Luther Jewett, the second child of Daniel Jewett, was born December 24, 1772, and became a physician, commencing his practice at Putney, Vermont, in 1797. He married Betsey Adams, a daughter of Ephraim Adams. Later he removed to St. Johnsbury, Vermont, where he opened a drug store and continued in medical practice. He received his degree of M. D., from the medical department of Dartmouth College, in 1810. In 1814 he was elected a Member of Congress by the Federal party and served from December 4, 1815, to March 3, 1817.

In 1816 the first wife of Dr. Jewett died, leaving eight children. In the following year he married Nancy Chamberlain, who was born in 1777, at London, New Hampshire, and died January 21, 1856. Two children were born to his second union.

After his return from Congress, Dr. Jewett was ordained a minister by the Congregational Church, and on February 28, 1821, he was installed

pastor of the church at Newbury, Vermont, where he lived from 1828 to 1832, in the meantime editing and publishing the *Farmers' Herald*. For a large part of the time, some 15 years prior to his death, he was a member of the State Legislature. He was a man of great power of mind and was eminent as a physician, a preacher and a statesman. His death took place at St. Johnsburg, Vermont, March 8, 1860.

Hibbard Jewett, the eldest son of Dr. Luther Jewett, and the grandfather of our subject, was born in Putney, Vermont, November 9, 1799. He studied medicine under his father and then attended Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, from which he was graduated in 1820. He settled at Dayton, Ohio, in 1827 for the practice of Medicine, which he continued until his death, October 26, 1870. He was very prominent in the community, not only as a physician but also as a citizen of high ideals. In the disturbed period preceding the Civil War, he was a pronounced abolitionist. His house was mobbed the night of January 23, 1841, because he had held an abolition meeting there. He was president of the Central Ohio Insane Asylum for 17 years, and after his death his library of seven hundred volumes was presented to this institution. On May 20, 1828, Dr. Jewett was married to Sophronia Adams at Keene, New Hampshire. They had nine children.

Adams Jewett, son of Dr. Hibbard Jewett, was born at Dayton, Ohio, February 9, 1840, and was baptized by Rev. Ethan Allen, on July 3rd following. He attended the public schools at Dayton until he was 16 years of age, when he entered Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio, where he remained a student from 1856 until 1859. The year 1860 he spent at the New York Agricultural College, Ovid, New York. In 1861 he settled on the Jewett farm, on the north bank of the Grand Reservoir, in Mercer County, about three miles east of Celina.

Adams Jewett was married November 7, 1867, in Auglaize County, Ohio, to Augusta Baker, a daughter of Jacob and Nancy (Wade) Baker, born March 31, 1846, at Hardin, Shelby County, Ohio. The seven children born to this marriage are: Sophronia Adams, wife of C. K. Hight; Hibbard J., who is a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church, now stationed at Gibsonburg, Ohio; Harry A., the subject of this sketch; Mary, wife of Edward Mack; Ethel, wife of Shelby Stearns, of Bluffton, Ohio; Lou Edna and Howard Herman, students at Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio. The father of this family died from an attack of "la grippe," at his home near Celina, January 19, 1899, aged 59 years. He was a thoroughly educated man and was also a practical farmer.

Harry A. Jewett has spent his life in the neighborhood in which he was born and was educated in Jefferson township. In 1897 he was married to

Luella Piper, a daughter of George Piper, and they have two children—La-Voone and Eugene F.

Mr. Jewett has been a lifelong Democrat. In 1903 he was elected township trustee on the Democratic ticket, and has given efficient and satisfactory service ever since. He is one of the leading members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in his locality and a liberal contributor to its needs. His only fraternal connection is with the Woodmen of the World.

There are few citizens of this locality who can trace more clearly a long and honorable ancestry than can Mr. Jewett. The name may be found on many a page of history of which loyal Americans are proud, and it has always stood for temperance, education and religion.

JOSEPH WARREN ROEBUCK

Joseph Warren Roebuck, one of Union township's progressive citizens, who is engaged in general farming on a farm of 140 acres located in section 2, was born four miles west of Mendon, Ohio, February 15, 1867, and is a son of Warren and Harriet (Lytle) Roebuck.

Warren Roebuck was born in Dublin township, Mercer County, Ohio, near Rockford, and died in 1870 at the age of 31 years. His wife was a daughter of Brooks Lytle, who came from Pennsylvania and was among the pioneers of this section of Ohio, locating in Union township, Mercer County. Mrs. Roebuck died in 1883. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Roebuck: William, who married Sarah Hill and lives on a farm in section 2, Union township; Vena, who married Hick Guin and lives at Van Wert, Ohio; Amanda, who married Ralph Grandstaff and lives at Van Wert, Ohio; Curtis; Harriet; and a child that died in infancy.

Joseph W. Roebuck was reared in Union township and attended the township schools. His first purchase of land was one of 20 acres; later he bought 40 acres more and in 1906 added another 80 acres. Mr. Roebuck first came to this farm in 1886 as a hired hand, receiving $13 per month until 1890, when he received $15 per month. In the spring of 1890 he put out a spring crop on his uncle's place and was able to marry in the fall. After his marriage he lived two years on his father-in-law's farm. He then returned to the Benjamin Goodwin farm, his present place, where he has since lived, engaged in general farming and also raising some stock. He has 40 acres of land in corn, 20 acres in wheat and the remainder in oats and grass.

Mr. Roebuck was married in 1890 to Phebe Ann Daring, a daughter of Joseph and Julia Ann (Keffer) Daring. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Roebuck, namely: Rolly, Curtis and Edith, deceased; and Dora,

Lottie and Marie, living at home. Mr. and Mrs. Roebuck are members of the Church of God. He is a Democrat.

ADAM SCHNEIDER

ADAM SCHNEIDER, a highly esteemed citizen of Fort Recovery, was born in Germany, April 15, 1858, and is a son of Fred and Catherine (Fenter) Schneider.

Adam Schneider was reared and educated in Germany and worked on a farm until about 23 years of age, when he came to America and located in Fort Recovery, in 1881, where three brothers of Mr. Schneider had located in 1872. The eldest brother Fred, who had served in the Franco-Prussian War, came to America in 1871 and died in Georgia in 1884, where he had gone for his health. Charles, another brother, runs the Wayne Hotel at Fort Recovery. Peter, the third brother, is now a resident of Colorado.

After Mr. Schneider located at Fort Recovery he worked for a few months in a gravel pit and then assisted his brother Charles, who was proprietor of a saloon and pool-room in Celina. He also worked some time for his brother, Peter. In 1884 he opened a saloon at Fort Recovery and continued in that business until the fall of 1905. In 1888 he erected the large brick block on Wayne street, which bears his name. His brothers have also erected some fine buildings, Peter Schneider and Dr. Adams having built the Opera House in 1888; and Peter also built the Wayne Hotel and a fine brick residence on South Wayne street. Charles Schneider erected two fine business blocks. In 1895-96, Mr. Schneider erected his large brick residence, containing 10 rooms and a bath, which is located on a tract of 23 acres just outside of the corporation of Fort Recovery. It is considered one of the finest country homes in Mercer County and stands on an elevation, about 100 yards back from the road; the lawn is beautifully and artistically laid out in flower beds and presents a very attractive appearance. The house is beautifully finished and furnished and has all the modern improvements and conveniences. In 1893 Mr. Schneider took a trip to his old home in Germany to visit his mother, two sisters and a brother. His mother died since this visit. He remained in Europe four months, in which period he also took a trip through France.

Mr. Schneider was married April 15, 1890, to Christina Heintz, a daughter of George and Mary (Augenstein) Heintz. Mr. and Mrs. Schneider have had three children: Eda, Herbert and Otmar. Mr. and Mrs. Schneider are members of the Lutheran Church at Fort Recovery, of which he was treasurer for many years.

George Heintz, the father of Mrs. Schneider, was born in Elsass, Germany, came to America when a young man and located in New York State, where he worked for some time, finally settling in Marion, Ohio. He was married to Mary Augenstein and had three children: Mrs. Mary Heiby; Emma, who died in infancy, and Christina, the wife of our subject. Mr. Heintz has one son, David, of Recovery township, by his first marriage. Mr. Heintz was agent for 40 years of the *West Bote*, a German newspaper of Columbus, Ohio. He died in May, 1901, and his wife died in August, 1902.

BARNEY GRIESHOP, JR.

Barney Grieshop, Jr., a well-known agriculturist of Marion township, residing on his farm of 80 acres in section 14, was born on the home farm in this township, August 28, 1872, and is a son of Henry and Mary Anna (Hinders) Grieshop.

The grandparents of our subject came from Germany to America in 1847 and in the following year settled in Marion township, where the grandfather died in 1888. He had two sons and two daughters, all of whom were born in Germany but the younger son, Barney, an uncle of our subject.

Henry Grieshop married Mary Anna Hinders and they have had 12 children, as follows: Catherine, who married Henry Schwietermann; John, who married Anna Luthman; Lena, widow of Joseph Windt; Barney, who is the subject of this sketch; Rosa, who married Joseph Meinerding; Louis, who married Mary Link; Frank, who married (first) Rose Steinke and (second) Kate Roeckner; August, who is in the hardware business at Chickasaw; William, Clara and Adaline, all at home; and Benjamin, who died in infancy. The parents still reside in Marion township in the enjoyment of good health, respected and esteemed for their many sterling traits. The father is the oldest continuous resident of Marion township. He can recall the days when deer and other wild animals were plentiful all over his present fine farm.

The subject of this sketch was reared a farmer and purchased his present property at a sale in 1896. It was formerly known as the Jacob Desch farm. Under Mr. Grieshop's excellent methods, a fine, productive farm has been developed. The residence, a commodious one of 12 rooms, was standing on the place when the purchase was made. Mr. Grieshop grows corn, wheat and hay and raises stock.

On October 28, 1896, Mr. Grieshop was married to Mary Meinerding, a daughter of Charles and Bernardina (Meierring) Meinerding, residents of Maria Stein, who have seven children, namely: Joseph, Mary, Henry, Catherine, John, Charles and Anna. Mr. and Mrs. Grieshop have three chil-

dren, namely: Rufena, born November 9, 1900; Anna, born August 4, 1904; and Olefa, born August 9, 1906. Mr. Grieshop and wife both belong to the Catholic Church.

BERNARD OVERMAN

Bernard Overman, one of the leading citizens and successful agriculturists of Marion township, residing on his excellent farm of 80 acres located in section 3, has been identified with the affairs of this locality all his life, as he was born on this farm on March 8, 1843. His parents were Henry and Agnes (Bockman) Overman.

Both parents of Mr. Overman were born in Germany, but they met and were married at Cincinnati, Ohio, which city remained their home for some five years. During the summers of this period, Henry Overman found work in Cincinnati and during the winters he was employed in the South. In 1837 the family came to Mercer County, where the father bought 80 acres of government land, paying $1.25 per acre for the same; the land office was situated at that time at Lima, where he had to make his entry. Later he bought of John Linder the 80 acres in Marion township, which now constitutes our subject's farm, and built a rough log cabin in a little clearing. This land he practically cleared by himself. Our subject can remember when the country was still so wild that packs of wolves, some 40 or 50 in number, with other wild animals roamed through the surrounding forest. So rapidly, however, did the country become settled that by the time he was old enough to hunt, there were 10 hunters to one wolf.

One child was born to the parents of our subject in Cincinnati—Mary, who is the widow of Henry Reichert. Eight more were born on the homestead farm in Marion township, as follows: Henry, who died aged 21 years; Bernard, the subject of this sketch; Caroline, who married John Brachman, one of the pioneer settlers of Mercer County; Anton, who married (first) Mary Barnard and (second) Catherine Mader; Elizabeth, who married Henry Gottemoller, of St. Henry; John, who married Elizabeth Mescher; Agnes, deceased, who was the wife of Benjamin Miller; and Frederick Joseph, who died aged 21 years. The father of this family died on the home farm on March 8, 1876, and the mother on May 6, 1904. They were honest, worthy, upright people who were respected and esteemed by all who knew them. Their early lives were full of toil but they lived to be able to enjoy some of the fruits of their labor.

Bernard Overman was reared on the home farm, where he remained until his marriage in 1867, when he worked as a carpenter both at Cincinnati and Dayton. In June, 1867, he purchased his farm from his father and he

HARRY STEVENS

FARM BUILDINGS OF JOSEPH W. ARCHER

RESIDENCE OF JOSEPH W. ARCHER

has made all the excellent improvements here, including the building of his large frame residence, his substantial barns and other farm buildings. His place is kept in excellent repair and presents the appearance of a comfortable rural home. Mr. Overman carries on general farming and raises some stock.

On May 14, 1867, Mr. Overman was married to Anna Goke, a daughter of George Goke, who was a native of Germany. Mrs. Overman died January 2, 1881, having had six children, as follows: Agnes, who married (first) Henry Lauger, who died leaving five children, and married (second) George Buning—they live in Auglaize County; Antony, who married Mollie Underbrink and lives at Ottawa, Ohio; Mary and Elizabeth, who died on the same day; Joseph, who died in young manhood, and John, who died at the age of 22 years.

Mr. Overman was married (second) on September 26, 1882, to Bernardina Brinckman, who was born in Germany, being a daughter of Arnold and Elizabeth (Vessels) Brinckman, now deceased, who never came to America. There were five children in the Brinckman family, namely: Maria, who married Herman Vorman and died in Germany; Bernardina; Margaret, who married Fred Shultz and lives in New York; Caroline, who married Dick Budde and lives at St. Marys; and Elizabeth, who married Fred Felthouse and lives in Germany. Mrs. Overman is a very intelligent lady and is well educated in the German language. She came to America in 1881.

Mr. and Mrs. Overman have had five children, namely: Elizabeth, who married Joseph Gahle; Anna, who died aged six years; Leo, born August 7, 1891; and Josephine and Aloys, who died in infancy.

Mr. Overman and family belong to St. John's Catholic Church. He is one of the prominent members of the church and was a trustee during the years of its construction. He has taken an active interest in township affairs and was elected township trustee during two terms, has also been school director and clerk of District No. 5. Mr. Overman is a man of high standing in his community and is looked upon as one of its representative men.

JOSEPH W. ARCHER

Joseph W. Archer, who is engaged in general farming on a well-improved and highly cultivated farm of 140 acres located in section 17, Union township, was born August 6, 1849, in Hancock County, Ohio. He came with his parents to Mercer County when nine months of age. His father was a native of Richland County, Ohio, and the mother of Wayne County. His father, when he came to Mercer County, located in Union township on the Van Wert County line. The following children were born to the parents of our subject: James Marion, deceased; Ruth, who married Benton Thomas

and resides in Hancock County, Ohio; Nancy, who married Daniel Kuhl and resides near Ohio City in Van Wert County; Louisa, deceased, who was the wife of George Frysinger; Minerva, who married David Krugh and recently moved to Michigan; William Americus, who resides in Union township; Joseph W., subject of this sketch; John, who resides in Union township near the Van Wert County line; Alonzo, who resides on the home place in Union township; and David, a carpenter by trade, who resides at Rockford. Mr. Archer's father was 79 years old at the time of his death, which occurred over 20 years ago, and was the first death in the family. Our subject's mother survived her husband until 1905, being past 84 years of age at her death.

Joseph W. Archer was reared and educated in Union township. In 1880 he purchased his farm of 140 acres, where he has resided since 1881 and been engaged in general farming. He rebuilt the house, built a new barn and made many other important changes, so that the farm is now very well improved.

Mr. Archer was married February 18, 1880, to Eliza Caldwell, a daughter of Rev. John and Ann Caldwell, both of whom are now deceased; the former was a local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. and Mrs. Archer have never had any children of their own, but reared and educated a boy, Harry Stevens, who is now married and resides in Michigan, where he owns a farm of 300 acres. A portrait of Mr. Stevens accompanies this sketch; also views of the residence and farm buildings of Mr. Archer. Our subject is a Republican in politics.

H. A. BECKMAN

H. A. Beckman, postmaster at St. Henry, where he also deals in hardware, stoves and tinware, was born June 20, 1871, in Granville township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Frank H. and Margaret (Herman) Beckman.

Frank H. Beckman was born at St. Henry, Ohio, August 15, 1849, and is a son of Henry A. Beckman, who came to America from Germany when a young man and was one of the early settlers of St. Henry. Upon locating in Mercer County, he worked upon the construction of the canal and the Grand Reservoir. He remained here until his death. Frank Beckman, the father of our subject, was reared in Granville township. After living near Burkettsville for a number of years, he returned to St. Henry, where he and his wife are still living.

H. A. Beckman was reared on his father's farm near Burkettsville, and attended the district schools of the neighborhood. He came to St. Henry in

1889 and for six years from 1889 to 1895, inclusive, was proprietor of a drug-store, after which he engaged in his present business, in 1903 building his large storeroom. In 1893 he was elected clerk of Granville township, to fill the unexpired term of Henry Romer, and was reelected in the spring of 1900 on the Democratic ticket to the same office, which he continues to hold.

On October 9, 1895, Mr. Beckman was united in marriage with Clara Gottemoller, a daughter of Henry Gottemoller, and they have three children: Leona, Luke and Albert. Mr. Beckman is vice-president of the St. Henry Building and Loan Association, a member of the Mercer County Fair Board and is secretary and treasurer of St. Henry's Catholic Church, of which he is also a member. Mr. Beckman was appointed postmaster of St. Henry on October 19, 1906.

WILLIAM B. HEATH

William B. Heath, a representative citizen and successful farmer and stock-raiser of Union township, where he owns a fine farm of 100 acres, was born some 80 rods east of his present home, May 3, 1857, and is a son of Maj. Joshua W. and Mary Ann (Lytle) Heath.

Maj. Joshua W. Heath, American born and bred, testified to the patriotic impulses of his nature by entering the service of his country, when her liberties were in danger, in 1861. He entered the service as captain of Company A, 46th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., was promoted to be major on account of gallantry and gave up his life in the line of duty, before Atlanta, Georgia, on July 22, 1864. His honored remains lie in the beautiful National Cemetery at Marietta, Georgia. His service had been one of exceptional brilliancy, he having participated in the memorable battles of Mission Ridge, Chattanooga, Chickamauga, Orchard Knob, Dalton and Resaca. After his marriage, he located in Union township, Mercer County, where the family has been located ever since.

The mother of our subject still survives at the age of 71 years. She is a daughter of Robert B. Lytle, formerly a resident of Wayne County, Ohio, where she was born, who later became a pioneer of Mercer County. Four children were born to Major Heath and wife, as follows: Martha Elizabeth, who married Willis Hays—both now deceased; William B.; Rachel Emma, who married Milton Tullis, now of Oklahoma; and Ellsworth, who died aged two years. After the death of Major Heath, his widow married George Snyder and she became the mother of four more children.

William B. Heath was educated in the schools of Union township. The absence of his father in the army threw many responsibilities upon his shoulders and, in every essential, Mr. Heath is a strictly self made man. His prop-

erty has all been acquired through personal effort and his standing in the community has been won by an upright, honorable life. In 1878 he purchased 40 acres of his present farm, to which he subsequently added 60 acres, and he devotes his land to mixed farming and also raises some stock. Although he taught school for one term in young manhood, his main business in life has been farming, and his reputation is established as a very competent agriculturist.

In 1877 Mr. Heath was married (first) to Lavina Protzman, who was born in Mercer County, Ohio, and died in 1878, leaving one son, Ansel O., who is now employed in the vicinity of Dayton. Mr. Heath was married (second) to Emma Downey, and they have had two children—Caryden James, aged three years, and Naomi, aged two years.

Fraternally, Mr. Heath is a member of Shane's Lodge, No. 377, F. & A. M., at Rockford; Lodge No. 416, Knights of Pythias, at Mendon, and Lodge No. 750, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, also at Mendon. In his political sentiments, Mr. Heath is independent. He recognizes good and honest principles in all parties, but as a whole he does not feel inclined to identify himself with any and believes he does best when he votes for the man whose life has previously shown the patriotism and integrity a candidate ought to have.

J. A. SWARTS

J. A. Swarts, a substantial and well-known farmer of Recovery township, owns 376 acres of land in Mercer County, located as follows—153 acres in Recovery township (constituting the home place), 160 acres in Washington township (which is now occupied by his son, William H.) and 63 1-3 acres in Butler township (on which his son-in-law lives). Mr. Swarts was born January 24, 1843, in Falls township, Muskingum County, Ohio, about six miles west of Zanesville, and is a son of Asbury and Sarah (Elder) Swarts.

Asbury Swarts, who was a native of Pennsylvania, became a resident of Muskingum County when a boy, in which county he later worked as a plasterer. Subsequently he moved with his family to Mercer County. He was married in Muskingum County to Sarah Elder and they had eight children, all of whom are deceased but J. A. Swarts, the subject of this sketch, who was the oldest, and LeRoy Swarts, the youngest child, who resides in Darke County, Ohio.

J. A. Swarts was six years old when his parents moved to Mercer County, the trip being made in a one-horse wagon that contained all the furniture, besides carrying the family, consisting of the father and mother and three children; the father was often compelled to cut his way through the woods.

Before removing from Muskingum County, Asbury Swarts sold his 5-acre tract of land; after settling in Mercer County, he bought 40 acres of land in Washington township from the government, for which he paid $1.25 per acre. He built a log cabin and after living on this land for several years he entered 80 acres more and sold the original 40 acres. He built a new cabin on this land and as there were no roads at that time he was obliged to follow blazed trails when going any distance from home. The deer were almost as plentiful as sparrows are now, and there were many wild hogs, wolves and other wild animals, as well as wild turkeys. The family experienced many of the hardships incidental to pioneer life.

The subject of this sketch had received some schooling while in Muskingum County, the schoolhouse adjoining his father's farm; but after settling in Mercer County it was several years before he again attended school, there being no schools in the neighborhood, and when he again returned he found he had forgotten all that had been previously learned. His father kept increasing his land and at the time of his death owned 240 acres. Mr. Swarts assisted his father in clearing land and remained on the home farm until after his marriage.

Mr. Swarts enlisted in the 193rd Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf., in January, 1865, and served until the close of the war. His father and one brother were also soldiers in the Civil War, his father being fife major, but was discharged on account of disability. The brother died of lung fever at Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio.

After the war Mr. Swarts returned to his home in Recovery township, and engaged in farming, in which occupation he has continued to the present time. He was married in the spring of 1864 to Mary Noland, a daughter of Thomas Noland, who was one of the pioneers of Mercer County. To Mr. and Mrs. Swarts were born six children: Catherine, who married Joseph Showalter, of Hardin County, and has four children; Ellen, who married James Frank, lives on her father's farm in Butler township and has six children; William H., who married Lida Patton and resides in Washington township; Rachel; Myrtle, who married Theodore Huber, has one child and lives in Marion, Indiana; and Clarence, who is a street-car conductor in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Swarts is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Fort Recovery.

ANTON OVERMAN

Anton Overman, who resides on the farm adjoining the one on which he was born May 6, 1849, owns 80 acres in section 34, Marion township, and is a son of Henry and Agnes (Bockman) Overman.

The parents of Mr. Overman, who were natives of Germany, were married at Cincinnati, Ohio. They resided for some years in that city and then removed, in 1837, to Marion township, Mercer County, where the father bought 80 acres of land from the government, for which he paid $1.25 per acre. Later he purchased another tract of 80 acres from Henry Hoosman, which is the property now owned by our subject and on which he resides. Both parents died on this farm, old and respected residents of the community. They had one child born during their stay at Cincinnati, Mary, who is the widow of Henry Reichert. The others were born on the farm, as follows: Henry, deceased; Bernard; Caroline; Anton, of this sketch; Elizabeth; John; Agnes, deceased; and Frederick Joseph, deceased.

Anton Overman was reared on the home farm, attending the district schools in his youth and following the life of a farmer from choice. In 1870 he bought his present fine property from his father and has put it into fine shape; here he carries on a general line of agriculture and is recognized as one of the representative farmers of the township. He has been a member of th Mutual Fire Insurance Company for several years, of which period he has been director two years; he has been an agent for the past 10 years.

Mr. Overman was married (first) in June, 1874, to Mary Barnard, a daughter of Leon Barnard, who was a native of Germany but who had settled in Mercer County before the birth of Mrs. Overman. She died March 25, 1881, the mother of two children, John and Frederick, the latter of whom is deceased. Mr. Overman was married (second) to Catherine Mader, a daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Bauman) Mader, both of whom were born in Germany and were married at Liverpool, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Mader had eight children, namely: Robert, Joseph, Anton, John, Frank, Josephine (wife of B. Beckmeyer), Mary (wife of David Roesher) and Catherine (Mrs. Overman).

Mr. and Mrs. Overman have had seven children, namely: Emma (deceased), Clara, Anna, Louis, Elnora, Frank and Agnes. Mr. Overman and family belong to St. John's Catholic Church. He is also a member of St. Joseph's Society. Mr. Overman has not taken any active part in politics, contenting himself mainly with voting for the candidate who, in his opinion, will best work for good government.

SETH SPRIGGS

Seth Spriggs, a well-known turnpike contractor and prosperous farmer of Washington township, who resides on a finely developed and well-improved farm of 185 acres, of which the home farm of 65 acres is situated in sections

3 and 4, and the remaining 120 acres in section 33, Liberty township, was born May 23, 1861, on the farm in section 3 and is a son of Thornton and Jane (Wilson) Spriggs.

Thornton Spriggs was born in Jackson County, Ohio, in 1837, and in 1841 came to Mercer County with his father, William Spriggs, who settled on the farm in Washington township, which our subject now owns. William Spriggs was one of the early pioneers of Mercer County and entered a section of land in Washington township, which lay along the Wabash River. The hewed-log house and barn which he built are still standing on our subject's place. Thornton Spriggs was reared in Washington township, and with the exception of four years spent in Celina, when he was sheriff of the county, has always lived in Washington township. He was one of the largest landowners in the township, and for a period of 12 years operated a general store at Wabash, under the firm name of T. Spriggs & Sons. His death occurred January 19, 1903, at the age of 67 years. His wife is still living in Wabash with her son, James Spriggs. There were eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Spriggs: William; Seth; Daniel; John; James; Charles; Lucretia, wife of John Wills, deceased in 1897; and Henrietta, who died aged one year.

Seth Spriggs was reared on his father's farm in Washington township. For over 20 years past he has been engaged as a turnpike contractor, having been interested in the construction of most of the turnpikes of Mercer County, as well as many in Paulding County, Ohio, and Adams and Jay counties, Indiana. In this business, he is associated with his brothers, under the firm style of Spriggs Brothers. In addition to this, he has also been interested in agricultural work. At one time the family was in rather reduced circumstances owing to some poor investments which the father made; now, however, all the sons of Thornton Spriggs own large farms.

Mr. Spriggs was united in marriage, April 12, 1885, to Mary Wilson, a daughter of Dr. S. R. Wilson, of West Virginia, who is now a resident of Celina. Mr. and Mrs. Spriggs have seven children, namely: Clyde, who was graduated with the highest class honors at the Celina High School in the spring of 1906 and is now teaching in the Prospect school, District No. 2, Washington township; Maud; Frank; Nellie J.; Hazel; William; Carl and Opal, all at home. Frank is attending the Celina High School.

HENRY GAST

Henry Gast, a leading business man of Chickasaw, owner of the substantial brick block which is a credit to the town and proprietor of one of the oldest mercantile establishments here, has been a resident of this county for the past 40 years. Mr. Gast was born on his father's farm in Auglaize Coun-

ty, Ohio, March 14, 1842, and is a son of Peter and Gertrude (Eilerman) Gast.

The Gast family is of French extraction. The grandparents of Henry Gast were Andrew and Theresa Gast. Both were born in France and were reared and married there, and when they emigrated to America they brought their four children with them—two sons and two daughters. They landed at the port of Baltimore, but shortly afterward removed to Cincinnati, Ohio, and subsequently the father bought a farm near Minster, in Auglaize County. The eldest son, Mathias, became a merchant and was the founder of the business which our subject is conducting. The second son, Peter, the father of our subject, remained a farmer. He became a very well-known citizen and was concerned in many of the early enterprises, which served to open up this section to peaceful and rapid settlement. He assisted in the building of the dam at the Grand Reservoir at Celina and also helped in the construction of the canal. In the developing of his property he was an industrious and judicious man, and as time went on he acquired a large amount of valuable farming land. He had made his home in so dense a forest, that when he or members of his family wished to go from Minster to Celina they had to follow a blazed path in order to keep from being lost.

Shortly after reaching Minster, Peter Gast was united in marriage with his first wife, Gertrude Eilerman, who died when her sixth child was born. The children of this marriage were the following: Joseph, Henry, Dena, Clara, Mary and Anna. Later, Peter Gast married the widow of Joseph Inecanke, and they had four children, namely: Barney, Catherine, Clemmens (deceased) and Ferdinand. The last named now conducts a grocery business at Chickasaw. Peter Gast died in 1895 at Celina. His second wife is also deceased.

Henry Gast was reared on his father's farm, removing from Auglaize to Mercer County, in 1866. He had been identified with all the important public movements in this section and has been the enterprising promoter of many of Chickasaw's leading business activities. When a very young man, he helped to repair the old plank road that then ran through Chickasaw, which was then but a village, and later, when the old road was transformed into a turnpike, he helped in constructing that also. Later he acquired a half interest in the grain elevator at Chickasaw, which he subsequently disposed of. He also owned and operated both a sawmill and brickyard and it was in these plants that he made the lumber and the bricks with which he has done a great deal of building. He owns the only brick block in Chickasaw, in which he conducts his business.

As mentioned, the founder of the present general mercantile business conducted by our subject was his uncle Mathias. His successor was Joseph

Gast, the elder brother of our subject, who later admitted Henry to partnership and when Joseph finally withdrew Henry became sole proprietor. Up to this time the business had been carried on in the old quarters, but such expansion soon took place that Mr. Gast found it necessary to enlarge his accommodations to meet his increasing trade. He then erected his present two-story, brick block, a handsome structure, with cement sidewalk in front. Mr. Gast enjoys abundant patronage from the town and surrounding country, as he carries a large and carefully selected stock of high grade shoes, dry goods, notions, men's furnishings, and a large line of queensware. Mr. Gast is a painstaking and courteous merchant and commands the confidence of the community as to the quality of his goods.

Mr. Gast was married (first) to Mary Schwietermann, who was a member of one of the very prominent families of this section, and was a sister of Harman Henry Schwietermann, of Franklin township, formerly county commissioner of Mercer County. Mrs. Gast died May 16, 1888. Seven children were born to this marriage, as follows: Louis, deceased; Regenia, deceased; Rose, who is a saleslady in a large mercantile establishment at Dayton, Ohio; Frank, owning a large barber shop in San Francisco, who safely passed through the earthquake of April 18, 1906; Julius, who is in business at Chickasaw; Henry, who has charge of his father's livery business at Chickasaw; and Maria, a very competent and intellectual young lady, who very ably assists her father in the management of a part of his business. Mr. Gast married (second) Mrs. Elizabeth Stelzer, and they have one son, Leo. Mrs. Gast takes a great deal of interest in the management of the business and Mr. Gast attributes much of his prosperity to her excellent judgment. She thoroughly understands the business and manages very efficiently when Mr. Gast's many other interests claim his attention.

Mr. Gast and family belong to the Catholic Church and he is a member of St. Joseph's Society. He has always been a liberal contributor to church finances as well as to the upbuilding of the town along educational lines. Mr. Gast stands as one of the representative men of the southeastern section of Mercer County.

ETHAN H. FAST

Ethan H. Fast, a well-known agriculturist of Hopewell township, now serving his second term as a member of the township Board of Education, belongs to an old family of this county. He was born in Mercer County, Ohio, January 5, 1867, and is a son of Abraham G. Fast.

Abraham G. Fast was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, and was a lad of nine years when his parents came to Mercer County and settled in Center

township. His home for many years has been in Hopewell township, section 1.

Ethan H. Fast was educated in the schools of Hopewell township and then learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for a number of years. Subsequently he turned his attention to farming and now owns a well-cultivated farm of 60 acres. He has always taken considerable interest in public questions in his locality and enjoys the confidence and respect of his fellow-citizens in large degree. He is serving his second term as a member of the Board of Education and gives a large amount of time to the proper performance of the duties of this office.

Mr. Fast was married to Allie Crane, who was born in Mercer County, Ohio, and is a daughter of the late E. S. Crane. They have had six children, namely: Herbert E., Hazel, Laird G., Myrtle V., Earnest Fidelis, who died aged 17 months; and Irvin A. Mr. Fast is a member of the Church of God and holds the office of deacon.

JEREMIAH ALLEN

Jeremiah Allen, a representative citizen and successful farmer, residing on his well-improved farm of 80 acres, which is situated in section 20, Union township, is also an honored survivor of the great Civil War, in which he spent over three years. Mr. Allen bears a distinguished name and comes from the same stock as did Gen. Ethan Allen, of Revolutionary fame. He was born in the Dominion of Canada, just opposite Oswego, New York, and is a son of Enos and Eliza (Van Meere) Allen.

Nicholas Allen, the paternal grandfather, was a native of Vermont. He married Annie Gear and they reared a family of children. After her death, Nicholas, with two of his sons, Hiram and Simon, went West and these sons participated in the battle of Lake Champlain, in the War of 1812. Two sons and a daughter of Nicholas Allen remained in Vermont. The latter became the wife of Nathan Harvey. One of the sons was Enos, the father of our subject.

Enos Allen was born July 5, 1805, and died May 26, 1893, aged 87 years, 11 months and 10 days. He lived in the vicinity of Middlebury, Vermont, until manhood, when he moved to the northern part of New York and settled on the shore of Lake Champlain. Subsequently he crossed over to Canada and resided there for almost 20 years. He then moved to Ohio and settled in Dublin township, Mercer County, near where the present Perry homestead is located. He married Eliza Van Meere, who was born in Canada, March 19, 1811, and died December 22, 1875, aged 64 years, 9 months and

3 days. She was a daughter of John and Hannah (Harrington) Van Meere. The former was a native of Pennsylvania, of Dutch descent. The latter was a native of New York. Eight children were born to Enos Allen and wife, as follows: Jeremiah, our subject, who was the eldest; Justin S., born January 27, 1835, who married Almira Moore and resided two and one-fourth miles from his older brother, in Union township, where he died July 17, 1896, aged 61 years and 18 days; Diana, born January 25, 1837, deceased March 24, 1876, aged 38 years and 2 months, who was the wife of John M. Drake, of Union township; Phoebe, born June 11, 1839, deceased August 3, 1899, who was the wife of Joseph B. Drake, of Union township, who still survives; Eliza Jane, born September 6, 1841, deceased November 1, 1879, aged 38 years, 1 month and 25 days, who married Elias Pritchard, of Union township; Deborah, born April 5, 1844, who is the widow of James Vance and lives on the old home place; and Samantha, born November 1, 1864, and Harriet, born September 19, 1868, who died unmarried.

Jeremiah Allen obtained his education in Canadian schools and grew to man's estate a practical farmer. In 1855 he moved to Mercer County, Ohio, followed by his father in the following year. He settled where he now lives, when the whole surrounding country was covered with timber. A cabin of logs had been commenced, which Mr. Allen was obliged to finish before it was habitable and when it was completed it had a loose board floor, one window and one door, which the greater part of the time stood hospitably open. He immediately began clearing his land with a view to cultivating it, but had made only reasonable headway when the Civil War broke out. Although born in Canada, he was a true and loyal American at heart, the blood of brave military ancestors coursing through his veins, and he soon resolved to enter the army and defend the liberties for which his family had fought in times past.

After making arrangements for the comfort of his family during his absence, Mr. Allen enlisted on September 10, 1861, in Company A, 46th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., under Capt. J. W. Heath and Col. Thomas Worthington, and was mustered in at Camp Lincoln, near Columbus, by John R. Eady, mustering officer. In February, 1862, the regiment took the train for Cincinnati, went from there to Paducah, Kentucky, thence to Savannah and on March 20, 1862, reached Pittsburg Landing. On the following day the regiment moved to Shiloh, pitched tents and was then drilled until it went into battle on April 6th and 7th, both Company A and the regiment giving good account of themselves and losing heavily. The regiment reached Corinth on April 30, 1862, where Mr. Allen fell sick and was furloughed home on May 3rd. As soon as he was able to get about, he returned to his regiment, reaching it on June 19th at Lagrange, Tennessee. The next move of the

regiment was to Lafayette, in the same State, where Mr. Allen was in a skirmish on June 30th, on the picket line, in which John Harper, of Mercer County, was wounded and subsequently died from its effects, and Captain Heath and a number of others were taken prisoners, Mr. Allen and Eli Heath being the only ones of the detachment to escape.

The 46th Ohio fought and won laurels at Vicksburg, Black River, Jackson, and Lookout Mountain and the severe battling at Mission Ridge decimated the ranks. The survivors went on to Knoxville, raising the siege there, then marched back to Scottsboro, Alabama, where the weary and footsore soldiers went into winter quarters. On May 1, 1864, the 46th Ohio, in marching trim, started on the Atlanta campaign, which included participation in the battles of Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain and Peach Tree Creek. Mr. Allen took part in the battle of Atlanta on July 22nd, when Captain Heath was killed as was also General McPherson. John Hicknell, of Union township, also fell in this battle. History tells of the fierce second battle of Atlanta on the 28th of July, of the repelled charge on August 3rd and of the second charge when the 46th Ohio, with other invincible regiments, made a successful capture and held the works for 20 days. From Atlanta, Mr. Allen's regiment was sent to Jonesboro, where an attack was made on the enemy in the rear, subsequently falling back from Lovejoy Station to East Point, where final preparations were made for the great "March to the Sea." After a faithful service of three years and 10 days, Mr. Allen received his honorable discharge on September 20, 1864, and reached his Ohio home on the last day of that month.

Mr. Allen resumed the clearing of his land, which he speedily accomplished, and soon proved himself as good a farmer as he had been a courageous soldier. He now has a very valuable property and all the excellent improvements have been placed here by himself. He is no longer very actively engaged in the operation of his farm, but still overlooks and advises those who do the actual work.

Mr. Allen was married (first) to Alma Bloomer, whose father had died and whose mother was married (second) to Smith Allen, who was an uncle of our subject. Mrs. Allen was born August 4, 1839, and died December 10, 1876, aged 37 years, 4 months and 6 days. Seven children were born to this marriage, as follows: Jehiel, born May 21, 1858, residing at Spencerville, Ohio, who married Laura Stettler—two of their three children survive; Lucy, wife of Thomas Miller, residing near Mendon; Norma, wife of Milo Miller, residing at Cary, Ohio; Lydia Ann, born September 25, 1865, who died October 25, 1882, aged 17 years and 1 month; Alla, born August 30, 1868, who married C. M. Tomlinson and resides in Mendon—their one child is deceased; Ella, born October 23, 1870, who died April 3, 1890, aged 19

years, 5 months and 10 days; and Eliza R., born August 1, 1874, who died April 21, 1876, aged 1 year, 8 months and 21 days.

Mr. Allen was married (second) to Mrs. Cynthia Heath, who died February 12, 1889, aged 50 years, 3 months and 24 days. Mr. Allen was married (third), on May 3, 1898, to Annie Magoogan, who was born January 28, 1848, and is a daughter of Aquilla Magoogan, of Marion County, Ohio. The Magoogan family is of Irish extraction.

Mr. Allen is a stanch Republican. He is a valued member of McKendree-Murlin Post, No. 319, G. A. R., at Mendon. For many years he has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

JOHN STUKENBORG

John Stukenborg, an enterprising and successful farmer of Butler township, who resides on his farm of 80 acres in section 32, was born at Egypt, Auglaize County, Ohio, May 1, 1852, being a son of Henry and Agnes Stukenborg.

The parents of Mr. Stukenborg were both born in Germany and when about 21 years of age both came to America. They were passengers on the same vessel crossing the Atlantic Ocean, and were married shortly after getting settled. Eight children were born to this marriage, the two survivors being our subject and his sister, Mrs. Caroline Rahe, of Minster, Ohio. The father married a second time and had seven more children. His death occurred in 1882.

John Stukenborg was reared in the village of Egypt and obtained his education there. When he was 21 years of age, he started to learn the blacksmith's trade but could not continue on account of a weakness of the eyes. He then hired out as a farm hand, going to St. Johns when about 22 years old, and farming has been his main occupation ever since. Immediately after his marriage, he moved upon his present farm, a property he had purchased in 1877. At this time it was covered with timber and Mr. Stukenborg put in some years of very hard work clearing it and making the many improvements, which mark it now as one of the best farms in the township. In addition to carrying on a general line of agriculture, Mr. Stukenborg raises sugar cane and has installed a modern cane presser which enables him to turn out excellent molasses. In all things he is one of the progressive men of his locality and one of the most prosperous.

Mr. Stukenborg was married at St. Johns, Marion township, in 1878, to Maggie Elking, a daughter of Fred and Elizabeth Elking, natives of Germany. Eight children were born to this marriage, as follows: Henry, a

resident of Indian Territory; Frank, who operates a threshing machine owned by his father; Caroline, who is the wife of Charles Cumbarg, of Jefferson township; Charles, who died aged 14 months; and Benjamin, Charles, Edward and John, living at home.

Mr. Stukenborg is one of the leading members of Holy Trinity Catholic Church at Coldwater and was a member of the building committee when the church edifice was erected. He is also a member of St. Joseph's Society. He is a man of sterling character and is very highly esteemed throughout Butler township.

ALOIS JOHN WILLKE

Alois John Willke, M. D., who is practicing medicine at Maria Stein, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, January 8, 1865, and is a son of Gerhard and Theresa (Schaper) Willke, both natives of Germany.

Upon coming to this country, Gerhard Willke and wife settled at Cincinnati, Ohio. They were the parents of seven children, three of whom are still living, as follows: Anna, who married Thomas Unger and resides in Cincinnati, Ohio; Caroline and Alois John.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood days in Cincinnati, attending the schools of that city. After some study under private teachers, at the age of 23 he entered the Medical College of Ohio, now known as the medical department of the University of Cincinnati, and was graduated after three years of study. After his graduation, he was appointed interne physician of the Good Samaritan Hospital, Cincinnati, after a competitive examination. On October 1, 1893, he came to Maria Stein and engaged in the practice of medicine.

Dr. Willke was united in marriage on May 8, 1894, to Caroline Vanderhorst, a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Kroger) Vanderhorst. Five children have been born to Dr. and Mrs. Willke: Ada; George; Marie; Lucille; and Edgar. Dr. Willke built his residence shortly after locating in Maria Stein. He and his family are members of St. John's Catholic Church. He is a member of several medical societies.

AUGUST RENTZ

August Rentz, whose valuable farm of 138 acres is situated in section 11, Marion township, was born on his present farm, May 29, 1873, and is a son of Xavier and Barbara (Fecher) Rentz.

Xavier Rentz was born in Germany, December 2, 1830, and is a son of Anthony and Agnes (Baumgartner) Rentz. When he was nearly two years

of age, his parents embarked on a sailing vessel for America, but the ship was wrecked and the passengers lost all their possessions and barely escaped with their lives. Finally they were landed at Charleston, South Carolina. The grandfather of our subject finally brought his family to Greenville, Darke County, Ohio, and in 1847 removed to Mercer County, settling on the farm now owned by our subject. The brick house first built is still standing. A family of 12 children were born to Xavier and Barbara Rentz, of whom six are now living, namely: John, an instructor in a large Catholic school at St. Paul, Minnesota, who married Mary Rosenberger; Theresa, who is the widow of Barney Mestemaker; Anthony, residing in Marion township, who married Mary Heyne; Anna, who married Andrew Stammen and lives at New Weston, Darke County; August (2), who is our subject; and Henry W., who married Elizabeth Pleiman. The following are deceased: Joseph, at the age of six months; Mary, aged 33 years; Joseph (2), a very promising young man, whose death occurred at Tacoma, Washington, at the age of 26 years; Frank; August, aged three and a half years; and Xavier, aged two months.

August Rentz was educated in the local schools and has always devoted his life to agricultural pursuits. He bought his farm from his father, who had received it from his father. The first purchase was of 106 acres just one year after he was married, and the second purchase, of 32 acres, was made in 1905. He is accounted one of Marion township's best farmers and has made many substantial improvements here.

On April 26, 1893, Mr. Rentz was married to Anna Rose, a daughter of Henry and Bernardina (Knoeber) Rose. Mr. Rose was born in Germany, came to America when 26 years of age, and worked first on a railroad in New York. Later he lived a few years at Cincinnati and then came to St. Johns, Mercer County, where he married Bernardina Knoeber, a native of that place. They then purchased and moved to a farm of 20 acres at Sebastian, where Mr. Rose now owns 230 acres. Mr. and Mrs. Rose have eight children, namely: Bernard, who married Regina Schuckman; Mary, deceased, who was the wife of Bernard Froning; Herman, who married Elizabeth Weber; Henry, deceased, who prepared for teaching; Anna and Cecilia (twins), born April 14, 1872; John, who married Mary Unrost; and Elizabeth, who resides at Chickasaw with her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Rentz have six children, as follows: Alfred Xavier, Roman Henry, Narbet Harman, Florentina Elizabeth, Bernard Ferdinand and Richard John.

Mr. Rentz and family belong to the Most Precious Blood Catholic Church at Chickasaw. He is a prominent member of St. Joseph's Society.

Mr. Rentz is one of the representative men of Marion township and is a member of the School Board.

EDGAR E. STEPHENSON

Edgar E. Stephenson, of the firm of Estry & Stephenson, dealers in hard and soft lumber, planing-mill supplies and building materials of all kinds, at Celina, is one of the representative business men of the village. He was born in Hamilton County, Ohio, in 1855.

After completing his education, Mr. Stephenson taught school for a short time and then went into the sewing machine business at Bluffton, Indiana, where he remained for two years and then became interested there in the stave and heading business. He continued to be concerned in business of this kind at Bluffton and Montpelier, Indiana, for six years. In 1880 he located at Celina, and was at the head of the Nimmons heading plant for 12 years. In 1892 he bought out Mr. Timmonds' interest in the lumber firm of Estry & Timmonds, becoming the junior partner, and the business has continued, expanded and prospered under the management of the present firm of Estry & Stephenson. Mr. Stephenson is a careful, able business man and enjoys the confidence of the public.

In 1877 Mr. Stephenson was married to Sarah J. McCleery of Bluffton, Indiana, and they have two children, viz.: Mary, wife of N. W. Monroe, of Celina; and Hugh, living at home.

Mr. Stephenson is a prominent member of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church at Celina and is a member of the board of trustees.

REUBEN BUCK

Reuben Buck, whose valuable and well-improved farm of 200 acres is situated in section 31, Jefferson township, is one of the oldest men in Jefferson township and one of the most highly esteemed and best known men in Mercer County. He was born August 18, 1825, in Stark County, Ohio, and is a son of Christian and Elizabeth Buck.

When he was a boy, Mr. Buck's parents moved to Richland County, Ohio, and it was there he spent his early life. In 1839, when he was about 15 years old, his parents moved to Mercer County and settled in an 80-acre timber tract in Hopewell township, which his father had purchased, and which had to be cleared before crops could be raised. At that time the country was nothing but a forest wilderness and the family were compelled to endure many

trials and hardships incidental to pioneer life. Mr. Buck assisted his father in erecting a round-log cabin for the family to occupy, in clearing the farm and in making many other necessary improvements on the place. About two years after his marriage, he moved to Jefferson township, where he has since made his residence.

Mr. Buck married Jane Lincoln and they are the parents of nine children, of whom but four are now living, namely: William, a farmer of Jefferson township, who married Margaret Rohr and has seven children; Mrs. Henrietta Whelan, who lives in Idaho; Emanuel, who married Maggie Anselman, has one child, Carrie, and lives on the home farm; and Mina, who married John Yaney and lives in Butler township. Mr. Buck has always taken a great interest in the politics of his community, and has served as township supervisor and also as a member of the School Board.

HENRY GEORGE RAWERS

Henry George Rawers, M. D., who for the past 13 years has been a resident of Chickasaw, where he has been successfully engaged in the practice of his profession, was born in Ahaus, Germany, February 11, 1867, and is a son of Barney and Gertrude Rawers.

Barney Rawers and his wife were both natives of Germany; the former was engaged as a weaver in Ahaus, Germany, at the time of the birth of our subject. Barney Rawers with his wife and four children came to America in the early '70's and settled at Coldwater, Mercer County, Ohio, where they purchased a farm and where they still reside. They were the parents of the following children: Henry George, the subject of this sketch; John, who married Elizabeth Longenhauf and resides at Coldwater; Gertrude, who married Theodore Tekamp of Chickasaw; and Bernard, who married Minnie Shierholt. Theodore Tekamp and Bernard Rawers conduct a general store at Chickasaw.

Henry G. Rawers received his early education in Germany. Upon coming to this country with his parents at the age of 12 years, he first attended the academy at Coldwater, Ohio, for about three years. He then went to the Ohio Normal University at Ada, for two years, after which he taught school for a number of years at Burkettsville. He next studied medicine with Dr. Arlington Stephenson, of Fort Recovery, for three years, and then entered the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati. One year later he entered Rush Medical College at Chicago, from which he was graduated with the class of 1891. After graduating, he practiced medicine at Malinta, Ohio, for three years

and in 1893 located at Chickasaw, where he purchased a home and engaged in the practice of medicine in which he has met with much success.

Dr. Rawers was married May 27, 1891, to Anna Desch, a daughter of Casper and Maria Desch, and seven children were born to them, namely: Arthur, Salome, Leander, Arlington, Clarence, Georgia and Evangeline (deceased in infancy). Dr. Rawers and his family are members of the Most Precious Blood Catholic Church at Chickasaw. The Doctor enjoys the distinction of being the first citizen of Chickasaw to own an automobile.

Casper Desch, father of Mrs. Rawers, was born at Maria Stein, Mercer County. His father, who was one of the very earliest settlers of the southeastern section of Mercer County, worked on the construction of the canal and the Grand Reservoir. At that time the country was entirely a wilderness and it was necessary to block the doors to keep out the wolves and other wild animals. The nearest mill was at Piqua. Casper Desch was married to Maria Roeckner, and they had eight children: Catherine, who married Clem. Birkmeyer; Maria, who married Max Stippich, now deceased; Anna, wife of Dr. Rawers; Joseph; Stephen; Anthony; Margaret, who married Charles Homer; and Edward.

WILLIAM SPRIGGS

William Spriggs, a prosperous farmer and a leading citizen of Washington township, whose well-developed farm of 83 acres is situated both in Washington and Liberty townships, 23 acres being in section 3, Washington township, and 60 acres in section 34, Liberty township, is also a turnpike contractor. He was born on the old Spriggs homestead, which was entered by his grandfather, William Spriggs, in 1840, and is a son of Thornton and Jane (Wilson) Spriggs, both of whom were born in Jackson County, Ohio. The family history may be found in the sketch of Seth Spriggs, appearing elsewhere in this work.

William Spriggs is the oldest of a family of eight children, and was reared and educated in Washington township. After leaving school, he engaged in farming and stock-raising, and was also associated with his father in the grocery business at Wabash for many years. He also operated a sawmill at Wabash for some years. In 1884 he formed a partnership with his father, Thornton Spriggs, and his brothers, under the firm name of Spriggs & Sons; after the father's death, the firm became Spriggs Brothers. The firm was formed to contract for turnpike and street work. They have built a large share of the turnpikes of Mercer County, and many in Jay and Adams

counties, Indiana, and Paulding County, Ohio. The firm also built the track in the Fair Grounds at Celina.

William Spriggs was married April 14, 1900, to Martha Karr, a daughter of Lorenzo Karr.

CALVIN MARION JORDAN

Calvin Marion Jordan, one of Butler township's well-known agriculturists, residing on his well-developed farm of 40 acres located in section 17, was born September 21, 1866, in Portland, Jay County, Indiana, and is a son of Abraham and Sarah (Spade) Jordan, and a grandson of Garret Jordan.

Garret Jordan, who was a native of Ireland, emigrated to America about 1830, settling in Meigs County, Ohio. He died in 1876, near Portland, Indiana, leaving to his family a farm of 160 acres. Abraham Jordan was born at Pomeroy, Meigs County, Ohio, and is now residing in Jay County, Indiana, where he owns a fine farm of 160 acres. He married Sarah Spade and they have four children: William, who married Sarah Logan and lives at Portland, Indiana; Bertha, who married William Wilson and lives in Jay County, Indiana; Calvin Marion; and Grant, who married Ora Hughey and lives in Washington township.

Calvin M. Jordan was reared in Jay County, Indiana, and attended the district schools of Portland. In 1890 he came to Mercer County and engaged in farm work. In the spring following his marriage he moved to his mother-in-law's farm in Washington township, which he managed until 1903, when he came to his present property, which he had purchased in 1898. Here he has made many improvements, including the erecting of a large frame house and barn. Mr. Jordan was candidate for nomination on the Democratic ticket as infirmary director, but was defeated, through it being a four-cornered fight; he carried his own township by a handsome majority. Mr. Jordan was married September 21, 1889, to Olive Loughridge, who is a daughter of William and Elizabeth Loughridge. They have one son, Ralph, who is attending the Coldwater High School.

JOSEPH WALLISCHECK

Joseph Wallischeck, a prosperous farmer of Recovery township, whose fine farm of 90 acres is located in section 7, was born in Baden, Germany, July 19, 1846, a son of Philo and Varona (Theobald) Wallischeck.

Mr. and Mrs. Philo Wallischeck came to America in 1853, first locating for a short time in Cincinnati. From there they moved to Galion, Ohio, thence to Marion County, and in 1855 finally located on a farm in Recovery

township, Mercer County, which is now owned by their son Joseph. They had five children: Joseph, our subject, who is the eldest of the family; Charles; Frank, who is a well-known farmer of Recovery township; and Mrs. Susanna Barth and Catherine, who live in Illinois. Charles Wallischeck named above, studied for the Catholic priesthood at St. Charles Seminary, Carthagena, and at other schools and is a very well educated man. He became a priest in the Catholic Church and is known as Father Peter. For the past 12 years he has been a resident of California, where he is a professor in a college. Recently he made a visit to his old home in Mercer County, the first visit in 28 years.

Joseph Wallischeck was just seven years old when his parents came to this country and located in Cincinnati. In 1855, when he was nine years old, his parents settled in Recovery township on the farm which he now owns. Here he was reared and educated, and since reaching manhood he has continued to reside on the home farm, his parents moving in 1880 to Illinois, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Mr. Wallischeck lives in a fine brick house, which was built by his father. The family first lived in a log house and it was necessary to clear the land of the forest growth before any crops could be grown.

Mr. Wallischeck was married on the 26th of October, 1880, to Theresa Esser, a daughter of John Esser. They have had seven children: Philo Peter, John, Christina Catherine, Elizabeth, Godfrey, Mary and Dora. Mr. Wallischeck and family are all members of the Catholic Church of Mary, Help of Christians, at Fort Recovery.

JAMES SANFORD WATKINS

James Sanford Watkins, justice of the peace of Gibson township and one of the leading farmers of the township, owns and operates a fine farm of 80 acres, located in section 27. He was born June 28, 1851, in that part of Darke County that is now included in Mercer County, and is a son of James and Laura (Scranton) Watkins.

James Watkins was born in Gallia County, Ohio, and when a boy was brought by his parents to Darke County, where he was reared and educated. He was married to Laura Scranton and they became the parents of six children, namely: Abram, deceased in infancy; Peniah, deceased in 1876, who was the wife of Bentley Masslich; Clementina, who married Ephraim Hall and resides at Fort Recovery; Louisa, who married Frank Hall, of Fort Recovery; James Sanford; and John, who lived at Fort Recovery at the time of his death, August 8, 1906.

James S. Watkins was reared on a farm and has spent all his life on one.

Mr. Watkins moved to his present farm in 1876, at which time it belonged to his father-in-law, John Sutherland. After the death of Mr. Sutherland, Mr. Watkins bought out the other heirs, and has made many improvements on the place, having built a large frame house and barn. He was a teacher in Mercer and Darke counties for 21 years.

Mr. Watkins was married January 6, 1875, to Minerva E. Sutherland, and they had five children: Charles N., married, who is practicing medicine at Chattanooga, Mercer County, being a graduate of the Ohio Medical University at Columbus; Minnie Annetta, who married Amos Ulmer and has three children; James S., a resident of Fort Recovery, who is married and has two children; William, who died in infancy; and an unnamed son that died in infancy. Mrs. Watkins died May 4, 1887. Mr. Watkins married Martha Alice Pearson on January 12, 1889, and one child was born to this union: Elsie L., who died an infant. After the death of his second wife he was married, March 14, 1896, to Mrs. Margaret A. (Gilbert) Richardson, widow of John S. Richardson.

Mr. Watkins is now serving his second term as justice of the peace of Gibson township. He was for some time a member of the School Board. He is a member and trustee of the Evangelical Church.

MICHAEL SCHOTT

Michael Schott, a prominent citizen of Liberty township, a well-known agriculturist and a man who is a leader in oil development, owns a farm of 76 acres in section 7, which has been shown rich in both oil and gas. Mr. Schott was born in Washington township, Mercer County, Ohio, October 28, 1855, and is a son of Michael and Catherine (Breckhisen) Schott.

The parents of Mr. Schott were born in Germany. In 1850 they emigrated to America and came directly to Mercer County, and were settlers at an early date in Washington township. Of the children of the parents of our subject, three survive, namely: Mary, wife of Adam Martin, of New Corydon, Indiana; Barbara, wife of Ferdinand Huffman, Jr., of Liberty township; and Michael, of this sketch. Of the deceased, Jacob left a widow and five children, who live in Washington township.

Michael Schott was reared in Washington township until the age of eight years, and then came to Liberty township with his mother and stepfather, Nicholas Martin. His own father had died when he was two years of age. He attended school in Liberty township and assisted Mr. Martin on the farm for some years, but he is practically a self-made man, acquiring his possessions through his own industry.

On November 12, 1874, Mr. Schott was married to Margaret Kuehm, who was born in Germany and came to America when 18 years of age, in company with her parents, who settled in Jefferson township, Adams County, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Schott have had nine children, the survivors being: August M., Elizabeth, Frederick W., Mary C., Lorena B., Walter A. and Margaret O.

Mr. Schott is identified with the Democratic party. He has served two terms as assessor of Liberty township. He is a member of the Lutheran Church.

Mr. Schott is a practical oil operator and is well-known in the various fields. He is in the employ of the State Line Oil Company, of Newark, New York, with which organization he has been connected for a considerable period. He is known to be a man of business ability and personal integrity and enjoys the respect of his fellow-citizens.

JACOB HILDBOLD

Jacob Hildbold, a substantial farmer of Gibson township, whose fine farm of 160 acres is located in section 23, was born in Switzerland, March 25, 1830, and is a son of Nicholas and Mary (Senn) Hildbold, the former a miller by trade, who owned a mill in Switzerland.

Jacob Hildbold was reared in Switzerland, where he worked in his father's mill until he was 18 years of age, after which he worked in a factory until he was 24 years old. He then came to America and first located at Galion, Ohio, where he engaged as a blacksmith in a railroad shop for about 16 years. After leaving Galion, Mr. Hildbold bought a farm of 50 acres in Morrow County, Ohio, where he was engaged in general farming for about five years. After selling his farm, he moved to Crawford County, where he purchased a 70-acre tract in that county. After five years' residence on this farm, he sold and moved to Mercer County, and in January, 1882, bought his present farm in Gibson township, where he has since continued to reside.

Mr. Hildbold was married in 1856 to Anna Mathias, a daughter of George Mathias, who is a farmer living near Crestline, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Hildbold have had nine children, as follows: Charles, living in Gibson township, who is married and has three children—Harry, Florence and Walter; John, a resident of Gibson township, who is married and has two children—Leo and Helen; Herman, living on the home farm, who married Mary Hall, a daughter of Frank Hall, and has four children—Ralph, Grace, Nellie and Donald; Mary, who married Henry Weil, of Jay County, Indiana, and has three children—Cora, Ora and Ethel; Henry, living in Recovery township,

who is married and has one child, Gerald; Samuel, who is single and lives at home; and Amelia, Abraham and Ida, deceased. Mrs. Hildbold died in September, 1896. Mr. Hildbold was raised a Presbyterian, but is now a member of the Lutheran Church, there being no Presbyterian Church near.

WILLIAM S. HANSEL

William S. Hansel, who for more than 41 years was a successful agriculturist of Hopewell township, where he still owns an excellent farm of 120 acres, has been a retired resident of Celina since October, 1901. Mr. Hansel was born in Hocking County, Ohio, November 26, 1835, and is a son of George and Mary (Pontius) Hansel.

The father of Mr. Hansel was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, where he married. He and his wife became early settlers of Hocking County, where they lived quiet, agricultural lives for many succeeding years.

William S. Hansel was reared on his father's farm and was educated in the district schools. On August 13, 1857, he was united in marriage with Sarah A. Hanby, who was born in Hocking County, Ohio, March 27, 1839, and is a daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Cloud) Hanby. Mr. and Mrs. Hanby, who were natives of Pennsylvania, were pioneers in Hocking County and thus Mrs. Hansel was well trained in the pioneer life and the hard conditions to which she was subjected when she accompanied her husband to Hopewell township.

Mr. Hansel remained in Hocking County until after the birth of two children and then decided to remove to Mercer County. The family effects were packed in a two-horse wagon and the journey consumed four and a half days before the new home in section 11, Hopewell township, was reached. At that time the forest still covered what is now one of the finest farms in the township, and to the development of this Mr. Hansel devoted many years of his life. He was amply repaid for his industry and remained on the farm until advancing years caused him to seek a retired life. He was one of the township's leading citizens and was ever ready to do his duty in advancing the educational interests of his neighborhood and in assisting in public improvements.

The eight surviving children of Mr. and Mrs. Hansel are: John N., of Hopewell township; Mary E., wife of Jasper Wilson, of Greene County, Ohio; Lucinda, wife of Frank Warthman, of Dublin township; and George, Joseph, Henry, Ida (wife of Jacob Beougher) and August, all of Hopewell township.

Mr. and Mrs. Hansel have been consistent members of the Church of

God for very many years and Mr. Hansel has been a trustee, an elder and a deacon in the same. They are well known and are beloved by a wide circle of friends. The half-century anniversary of their marriage is approaching and it is the earnest wish of kindred and friends that many more years of happy life together may be vouchsafed them. Their pleasant home on Wayne street and Nickerson avenue, Celina, is one of great hospitality.

ADAM BEACH

ADAM BEACH, who is at the head of the only boot and shoe store in Fort Recovery, was born in Germany, January 3, 1859, and is a son of Andreas Beach, who is still a resident of Germany.

Adam Beach was reared and educated in Germany and learned the shoemaker's trade. In 1882, when 22 years old, he came to America, landing at New York. He first located in Crestline, Ohio, where he worked for about four years as a shoemaker, in 1885 removing to Fort Recovery, where he opened a repair shop. Two years later he put in a line of shoes, expending about $200. He kept increasing this stock and at present has the only shoe store in Fort Recovery, having bought out E. T. Hastings' stock of shoes in the fall of 1905 and combined it with his own. Mr. Beach owns his residence property and also owns a storeroom, which is at present occupied by a poultry store.

Mr. Beach has been married twice, his first marriage occurring in 1885 to Margaret Mathias, a daughter of John Mathias. They had one child, Leonora Anna. Mrs. Beach died in 1887. He was again married, in 1888, to Elizabeth Mathias, a sister of his first wife, and they have had three children, namely: Aurelia Marguerite, Arden and Ruth.

Mr. Beach served as trustee of Gibson township for six years. He has served as treasurer of the Recovery corporation for the past five years. He has also been a member of the Fort Recovery Village Council. Religiously, he is a member and trustee of Trinity Lutheran Church at Fort Recovery.

PETER J. SCHMITZ

PETER J. SCHMITZ, whose excellent farm of 103½ acres of well-cultivated land is situated in Gibson township, was born in Lorain County, Ohio, May 21, 1862. He is a son of John and Mary Ann (Pfiefer) Schmitz.

John Schmitz, father of our subject, was born in Germany, April 3, 1817, and still survives, being probably the most venerable resident of Sharpsburg,

Gibson township. He came to America in 1844 and settled in Lorain County on a property that his father had purchased. After his marriage, he bought a farm in that county on which he lived for some 20 years, leaving it to remove to Mercer County, in 1864. After selling the old farm, he bought 80 acres in Gibson township, this being the farm now owned by our subject. On this he erected a log house which is still inhabited and later bought 80 acres adjoining. Still later he added 50 acres more, situated in Darke County. He was considered a very judicious business man during his active life.

John Schmitz married Mary Ann Pfiefer, and they had eight children, namely: Maggie, who died aged 11 years; John, a wagon-maker, whose home is in Oregon; Joseph, a resident of Gibson township; Jacob, who lives in Minnesota; Gertrude, the wife of Joseph Remanklus, of Jay County, Indiana; Emma, wife of David Schlamp, of Gibson township; Peter J., of this sketch; and an infant that died unnamed.

Peter J. Schmitz was two years old when his parents brought him to Mercer County and he was reared in Gibson township. He learned the carpenter's trade and has followed that in connection with farming. He has many improvements about the place and in 1905 he built a large, convenient barn for his use. He carries on general farming.

On August 17, 1886, Mr. Schmitz was married to Elizabeth Leiser, a daughter of Frederick and Mary (Agler) Leiser. Frederick Leiser came with his parents to America from Germany, when seven years of age, his parents settling in Tuscarawas County, where he married when grown to manhood. He had 13 children, namely: Valentine, who died in infancy; Philip, who died aged five years; Katie, wife of Patrick Reedy, of Darke County, Ohio; Mary, wife of John Bright, of Dayton, Ohio; Elizabeth, wife of our subject; Charles, of Canal Dover, Ohio; Martha, wife of Englebert Schmitz, of Dayton; Anna, wife of William Camper, of Dayton; Maggie, wife of Peter Rummel, of Granville township; John, a teacher in Gibson township; Carrie, wife of Benjamin Hulsman, of Gibson township; William, a teacher in Gibson township; and Lawrence, who died aged four years. Mrs. Schmitz was 12 years old when she accompanied her parents to Mercer County.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Schmitz moved to Oregon, where Mr. Schmitz bought 40 acres of land, on which they lived for seven years and then came back to Mercer County. They have nine children: Frederick William, Mary Anna, Ursula, Emma, George, Henry, Lawrence, Charles and Gertrude. Mr. Schmitz and family are members of St. Paul's Catholic Church at Sharpsburg, of which he is one of the directors.

ANDREW J. SMITH

ANDREW J. SMITH,* a highly respected citizen and representative agriculturist of Hopewell township, residing on his well-cultivated farm in section 29, was born February 13, 1862, in Liberty township, Mercer County, Ohio, and is a son of Andrew and Margaret (Karch) Smith.

The parents of Mr. Smith were natives of Germany. His father was an early settler in Liberty township. When the Civil War broke out, he went into the service and died, from hardships endured, shortly after its close. The survivors of his family are: Andrew J., of this sketch; George, of Jefferson township; Matilda J., wife of John J. Hole, of Paulding County, Ohio; and Mary, wife of Levi Lincoln, of Lima. A half-sister of our subject is Sophia, wife of Stephen Garman, of Hopewell township.

Andrew J. Smith has lived in Hopewell township since his youth and has been on his present farm since 1879. His education was obtained in the district schools where his children are now receiving instruction, but under much more advantageous conditions.

In early manhood he was married to Mary Kanorr, who was born in Mercer County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Richard Kanorr, who gave up his life for his country, as a soldier in the Civil War. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have had seven children, namely: Leroy (deceased), Myra, Stephen, Edith, Cleteth, Alonzo and Sevilla.

Mr. Smith has always been identified with the Democratic party but he has not desired political office, the affairs of his business requiring his time and attention.

HUGH KINCAID

HUGH KINCAID,* who has been a resident of Liberty township for over a quarter of a century, living on a valuable farm of 77 acres, is also an honored survivor of the great Civil War. Mr. Kincaid was born in Jackson County, Ohio, August 7, 1839, and is a son of James and Susan (Gilliland) Kincaid, the former of whom was born in Virginia and the latter in Ohio.

Hugh Kincaid was reared in Jackson County and received his education in the district schools near his father's farm. Until the second year of the Civil War, he continued to till his father's fields, but in the summer of 1862 he decided that his duty lay in becoming a defender of his country's flag and he enlisted in Company F, 117th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and served one year in that regiment. It then became a part of the First Ohio Heavy Artillery, and he still remained a member of the 117th, participating in all its dangers and victories until he was honorably discharged and was mustered out of the

service in the spring of 1865. The most serious battles in which he participated were those at Strawberry Plains and Jonesboro. He left the service of his country with a record of which his kindred may always feed proud, faithful to every call of duty and cheerful and obedient in the face of almost certain death on many memorable occasions.

After his return from the army, Mr. Kincaid resumed farming, for three years at Missouri, Putnam County, Ohio, from there going to Jay County, Indiana, later removing to Washington township, Mercer County, and in 1878 locating on his present farm in Liberty township. He carries on general agriculture, having the larger part of his farm under an excellent state of cultivation.

Mr. Kincaid was married (first) to Micha Wilson, who was born in Scioto County, Ohio, and they had nine children, six of whom survive, as follows: Alexander, of Liberty township; Susan, wife of P. Bodkin, of Auglaize County; William, of Jefferson township; John, of Jay County, Indiana; Leo, of Washington township; and Altha, wife of Frederick Hess, of Mercer County. Mr. Kincaid's second marriage was to Emma Linch, who was born in Indiana, and they have the following children: Grace, Cora, Opal, Bessie, Frank and an infant.

Mr. Kincaid enjoys the friendship of his neighbors and the respect of his fellow-citizens throughout the township. He takes an active interest in its affairs and is considered one of its representative men.

TOBIAS EICHENAUER

Tobias Eichenauer,* a well-known agriculturist of Hopewell township, who resides upon a fine farm of 130 acres, situated in section 20, has lived here some 32 years. He was born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, December 30, 1850, and is a son of Frederick and Anna C. (Rodiger) Eichenauer.

Mr. Eichenauer was 17 years of age when he came to America, leaving his parents in the old country. He lived for a time in Lorain County, Ohio, but in 1874 he came to Mercer County and has become one of the most successful farmers and stock-raisers of this locality. His land is well cultivated and the improvements he has put on it have cost considerable money.

On February 24, 1874, Mr. Eichenauer was married to Elizabeth Schmidt, a daughter of the late John E. Schmidt, who was born in Germany and was an early settler in Hopewell township, having established his home here in 1848. Mr. and Mrs. Eichenauer have had 10 children and seven of these still survive, as follows: Frank W. and William H., both of Hopewell township, the latter being a popular teacher; Daniel W., a farmer in

Hopewell township; and Roy T., Benjamin H., Nora M. and Richard R., all at home. Mr. Eichenauer has given his children every advantage in his power and has seen them develop into bright, intelligent and respected young people.

In politics, Mr. Eichenauer is a Republican, but he has never been willing to accept any office except that of school director of District No. 4, which he has faithfully served in this capacity. He is a valued member of the Evangelical Association and takes a very active part in church and Sunday-school work. He is a very highly respected citizen, one who has prospered through his own industry and one who can number many friends among his neighbors.

WILLIAM WEIR

William Weir,* a representative farmer and well-known citizen of Hopewell township, who owns a superior farm of 80 acres, situated in section 30, was born here, December 9, 1855, and is the only son of Christian and Minnie (Vogel) Weir.

The parents of Mr. Weir were both born in Germany and came to Mercer County as settlers when the greater part of this township was awaiting development. Christian Weir purchased 40 acres of land, right in the green woods, obtaining it from the government. He was a hard-working, thrifty man and cleared his land and reaped ample returns from it. He was twice married, the mother of our subject dying in 1871. Politically he was a Democrat. Religiously he was a consistent member of the Lutheran Church. Christian Weir lived to advanced age, dying May 17, 1902, in his 90th year.

William Weir remained at home assisting his father and securing a fair common-school education in the vicinity of his home. He has always devoted his time and attention to agricultural pursuits and, with the exception of a residence of nine years in Shelby County, has always lived in Mercer County.

Mr. Weir was married (first) to Mary A. Wenker, of Shelby County, who became the mother of four children: Clara M., wife of Charles Haney, of Hopewell township; Henry C., of Hopewell township; Minnie, who resides at New Bremen; and John William Edward, who lives at home. Mr. Weir married (second) Elizabeth Eichenauer, and the two children of the second marriage are: Ada L. and Orville E.

Mr. Weir is a good citizen and an intelligent student of public affairs. He has not identified himself with any political party, but casts his vote as his judgment dictates. In local matters his fellow-citizens know that they can depend upon his support in promoting all objects looking to the development of the agricultural resources and the betterment of the public schools.

FOSTER JACKSON

FOSTER JACKSON,* a prosperous farmer of Union township, residing on a farm of 80 acres owned by him and his brother, located in section 7, was born in York township, Van Wert County, Ohio, August 27, 1880, and is a son of Simeon and Rebecca (Hays) Jackson.

Simeon Jackson was born in Van Wert County in 1851 and died in 1902. He was a son of Federal Jackson, who was one of the pioneers of Van Wert County, and who died when his son was a small child. Simeon Jackson enlisted in Company A, 49th Reg., Ohio Vol. Inf., and served four years and three months. He participated in a number of severe engagements, including the battles of Gettysburg, Shiloh, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge. He was at Atlanta, also at Jonesboro and at Lovejoy. Mr. Jackson was mustered in at Lima, Ohio. He was wounded in the jaw during the war, which caused a cancer and resulted in his death in 1902. Mrs. Jackson was born in 1851 and is still living at the age of 55 years. They became the parents of sons and daughters, namely: Otis, who is traveling through the West; Elzy, who married Etta Couch, of Spencerville and resides on the farm that he and his brother Foster own; Oscar, who lives on the home farm with his mother in York township, Van Wert County; Minnie, widow of George Lamb, residing with her mother in Van Wert County, who has two children—Leah and Leslie; Sallie, who married Charles W. Brown and died in 1897, leaving five children—Louis, Cole, Rea, Jessie and Florence (deceased); Willis, who married Ella Rickets, of Baltimore, Ohio, where he now resides—he has five children.

Foster Jackson was reared in York township, Van Wert County, until 15 years of age, attending school in District No. 3, and then went South to Birmingham, Alabama, being also at Chattanooga, Tennessee, for a time. After returning home, he went to Illinois and Indiana for one year, after which he returned to Ohio again and engaged in the moving business, moving houses and buildings. He met with much success and continued in this business until 1904, when he located on the Branson Roebuck farm. Two years later he bought the Doc. Cole farm of 80 acres, on which he now resides, where he has since been engaged in general farming. Mr. Jackson also owns an 80-acre farm in Idaho, which is under irrigation; on this land in 1906 he raised 1,500 bushels of wheat from 72 acres. The farm in Union township is owned in partnership with his brother, who is now engaged in the moving business.

Mr. Jackson was married in 1901 to Maud Dull, a daughter of Delbert and Melissa (Roebuck) Dull, of Union township. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Jackson: Ralph, aged three years, and Roy, who is one year old.

WILLIAM CRON

William Cron,* one of the leading business men at Celina, who conducts the largest carriage factory in Mercer County, is a native of Ohio and was born at Marysville, in December, 1848. He is a son of John and Theresa (Meyer) Cron.

John Cron, the father of our subject, was born in Germany and remained in his native land until he was 23 years of age. He then came to America, later to Ohio, and worked for a time at blacksmithing at Canton, and then settled permanently at Marysville (Cassella), where his death took place. He married Theresa Meyer and they had five children: John, Jacob, Mary, William and Adam.

William Cron was reared at Marysville and was educated in the district schools. He worked as a farmer until after the death of his father, when he went to Cincinnati, then to Indianapolis and in the latter city he served four years learning the blacksmith and carriage building trade. In 1869 he settled at Celina and for many years he has been a very prominent business man here. He established a carriage and wagon factory in connection with blacksmithing and now controls a large part of the trade of the county in this line of industry. Constant employment is given a large force of expert workmen.

In January, 1871, Mr. Cron was married to Lizzie Hierholzer. They have seven children living, namely: John, who is engaged in carriage manufacturing at Wauseon, Ohio; Flora, wife of B. H. Schele, of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Fred, foreman trimmer in his father's carriage works; Ada, living at home; Harman, bookkeeper and salesman in his father's establishment; Carl, who is in charge of the distributing office of the Standard Oil Company, at Lima, Ohio; and Hildgard, who lives at home. The subject of this sketch is a member of the Catholic Church and, fraternally, of the Knights of Columbus. He is a Democrat in politics and has held several city offices, at the present time being a member of the Village Council. Mr. Cron is one of the self-made men of Celina and has become one of its capitalists, owning a large amount of real estate.

HERMAN PULSKAMP

Herman Pulskamp,* a prosperous business man of Celina, a leader in the furniture line, has been established here since 1889. He was born in 1859, at Cincinnati, and is a son of the late Hon. H. H. Pulskamp.

Hon. H. H. Pulskamp was long a prominent citizen of Mercer County. He was born in Germany, emigrated to the United States and worked for a number of years as a wagonmaker at Cincinnati and at St. Johns, Mercer

County. He served through two terms as county treasurer and two terms as probate judge of Mercer County. He died in 1892. His wife, Mary Schafer, who was also of German extraction, died in 1886. Their surviving children are: Catherine, wife of Henry Goecke, of St. Johns; Herman, of this sketch; Henry, a hardware merchant at Celina; John, cashier of the Commercial Bank of Celina; Bernard, a physician; George, editor of the *Bote,* a German newspaper at Celina; and Edward, who lives at St. Bernards, a suburb of Cincinnati. Four children died in infancy.

Herman Pulskamp learned the carriage-making trade at Celina, after completing his education, and worked at his trade for about 13 years and then engaged in the furniture business. To this he has added undertaking and the business is carried on under the firm name of H. & J. Pulskamp.

In September, 1881, Mr. Pulskamp was married to Catherine Hein, a daughter of Henry Hein, and they have four children, viz.: Fred, Clara, Nora and Ada. With his family, Mr. Pulskamp belongs to the Catholic Church. He is also a member of St. Joseph's Society and the Catholic Knights of Ohio. Among his fellow-citizens he stands as an honorable business man, who for the past 15 years has carried on business with methods which have won him the respect and confidence of all and the esteem and friendship of a large number.

PETER NIEKAMP

Peter Niekamp,* a representative farmer of Marion township, who owns an excellent farm of 160 acres in section 10, was born on this farm, February 10, 1859, and is a son of Frederick and Catherine (Stammen) Niekamp.

The father of our subject was born in Germany in 1811 and came to America in young manhood. For a short time after reaching America, he worked at Cincinnati, as a laborer and then went to Tippecanoe, Ohio, where he lived for 16 years. He hauled the logs that were used in building the first house in this place. Here he married a lady who was born at Dayton, Ohio, and they had four children, viz.: John, Clemmens, Joseph and Mary, who married Rudolf Klostermann.

In 1850 Mr. Niekamp moved to Mercer County and later traded an old surrey buggy for the land which is now a part of our subject's farm. About seven acres had been cleared. He was one of the earliest settlers in this region. He built first a log cabin which he replaced in 1872 by a large six-room brick residence which our subject now occupies. About two years after settling here, his first wife died and he married Catherine Stammen, who came from Germany. To this union were born these children: Henry, who

married Catherine Koch; Minnie, who married John Ronnebaum; Gerhard, who married Elizabeth Mestemaker; Peter; Frank, who married Elizabeth Klostermann; and Elizabeth and Catherine, both deceased. Mr. Niekamp soon acquired fluency in speaking the English language and in the early days, with Joseph Siefken and a Mr. Loocterfelt, frequently accompanied German neighbors when they went to Celina to settle legal difficulties and business matters. He died August 18, 1894, aged 83 years, his wife having passed away in the month of May previous. They were most worthy people, widely known and highly esteemed.

Peter Niekamp was reared in Marion township and worked for his father into manhood. On September 25, 1884, he was married to Frances Bertke, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Barney Bertke, who was born in Germany and emigrated to America before the birth of Mrs. Niekamp. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Bertke were: Elizabeth, who married Barney Vahorn; Ann, who became the wife of Harman H. Schwietermann; Mary, who married Barney Knopke; John, who married Dinah Clune; Mathias, who married Mary Hostelinger; and Barney, who married Catherine Knopke. The father assisted in the construction of the canal, from Cincinnati to the reservoir. He died in 1905, at St. Marys, where his wife had died in 1901.

Mr. and Mrs. Niekamp have had nine children, namely: Clemmens, Catherine, Fred, Matilda, Leboretta, Leo, Tocilla (deceased), Regina and Richard. Mr. Niekamp and family belong to the Most Precious Blood Catholic Church at Chickasaw.

In 1888 our subject bought this farm from his father. He is interested also in the Chickasaw Grain & Milling Company, having become a partner in 1906. This promises to be one of the leading business enterprises of the place.

JAMES K. HEAP

James K. Heap,* one of the prominent citizens of Fort Recovery, now retired from active business life, was born at Dayton, Ohio, September 19, 1848, and is a son of Henry and Olivia (Reed) Heap.

The father of Mr. Heap was born in England, where he remained until he was 20 years of age and then came to America, finding employment at Philadelphia, as a cotton spinner. In that city he married Olivia Reed, a daughter of William Reed, who was a prominent public official of Philadelphia. During the War of 1812 Mr. Reed was powder inspector at Philadelphia. After his marriage, Henry Heap removed to Dayton, Ohio, where he went into business with a Mr. Wise, as a woolen manufacturer, and later became foreman for the Gibson woolen-mill, a position he filled for a number of

years. Both parents of our subject died at St. Marys, Ohio, the father in 1898 and the mother in 1895. Their children were as follows: Edward, who died when his parents were crossing the mountains, on their way to Ohio from Pennsylvania; Mary, deceased, who was the wife of Samuel Hoffman, also deceased; Ellen, who married (first) Noah Bretz, and (second) Howard Levery; Henry, a resident of St. Marys; Ann, wife of John Binkler, of St. Marys; and James K.

When our subject was about five years old, his parents removed to St. Marys, making the trip on a canal-boat. He was reared at St. Marys and attended the public schools and subsequently learned the grist-mill business, which he followed for some years. He then engaged in farming until 1881. He still owns 30 acres of fine land in Auglaize County. After leaving the farm he removed to St. Marys and was in the hardware business there until 1885, when he came to Fort Recovery and bought a grain elevator, which business he conducted until he sold it in November, 1905. Mr. Heap owns considerable valuable property in addition to his farm mentioned. In 1890 he purchased his fine residence at Fort Recovery, located on a five-acre tract of land, and he has a number of improved lots in St. Marys. He has served on the village Council of Fort Recovery with efficiency and to the advantage of the public.

In 1872 Mr. Heap was married to Elizabeth Ferguson, a daughter of Archibald and Margaret Ferguson, and they have had four children, namely: Harry, who died aged nine years; Roy, who is in the clothing and men's furnishings business at Montpelier, Indiana; Maude and James Edward. Mr. Heap's daughter is a very highly accomplished young lady. She graduated from the Fort Recovery High School and then became a student in the Lake Erie Seminary, at Painesville, Ohio. Since 1896 she has been a successful teacher in the primary schools at Fort Recovery. Every summer she enjoys a vacation course at Oxford, Ohio. The youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Heap is a practicing physician at St. Marys. He also graduated from the Fort Recovery High School, later from the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati and spent one year at the Good Samaritan Hospital and one at the German Deaconess' Hospital, Cincinnati.

Mr. Heap is prominent in Masonry, being a member of the chapter and commandery at Celina, and has been identified with the fraternity since he was 24 years of age.

LANNEY LEE SHEELEY

Lanney Lee Sheeley,* one of the prominent farmers and first-class citizens of Franklin township, resides on his 240-acre farm, located in section

28, and also owns 43 acres in section 16 and 59 acres more in section 21, making his total holdings 342 acres of some of the best farming land in the southeastern section of the county. Mr. Sheeley was born June 27, 1870, on the old Sheeley home place in Greene County, Ohio, and is a son of Isaac and Susan F. (Richardson) Sheeley.

Rev. Philip Gatch, our subject's great-great-grandfather on the maternal side, was the first Methodist preacher in Ohio; he settled at Batavia, Clermont County, Ohio, as early as 1772.

The first member of the Sheeley family to settle in Ohio was our subject's great-grandfather, who was born in Ireland, emigrated to America and settled at Jamestown, Greene County, where his son William was subsequently born. William Sheeley married Elizabeth Ausborn and they had seven children, namely: Presocia, Sarah Mary, David O., Isaac, Lydia, Alice and Harriet, all of whom survive except Presocia and Alice.

Isaac Sheeley was born in Greene County, Ohio, May 14, 1849, and lived at home until his marriage, after which he purchased a farm in Fayette County, on which he resided for a time and then removed with his family to Mercer County, in the fall of 1881 settling at Montezuma. In Greene County he married Susan F. Richardson, who died in the spring of 1887. She was a daughter of Wilson Richardson, who came to Ohio from Virginia. Before the parents moved from Greene County, our subject and his sister Lou were born. Lou subsequently married H. F. Littlefield; they live in California.

Lanney L. Sheeley remained at home until the death of his mother, when he went to work for John Beauchamp, who was a farmer in Franklin township, and made his home with him for two years. When he was about 19 years of age, he embarked in the fish business on his own account and conducted it at Montezuma before and after his marriage. He made considerable money in this venture, enough to enable him, in 1890, to purchase his first farm of W. F. Short. In 1898 he removed to his present farm, which he had bought of Hon. Stephen A. Armstrong and which is a very valuable property. All of his land is well located, his 43-acre tract in section 16 bordering on Lake Mercer and being also bounded by the Bennett turnpike and Prairie Creek. He carries on general farming and is very successful in his agricultural operations.

On November 23, 1892, Mr. Sheeley was married to Laura Belle Watkins, a daughter of Ezra Watkins, of Bellefontaine, Ohio. Mrs. Sheeley has the following brothers and sisters: Mollie, who married Harry Sholley and lives at Lebanon, Pennsylvnaia; Almeda, who married John Miller and lives at Anderson, Indiana; Eri, who married Jane Downs and lives at Zanesville, Ohio; Charles, who married Nellie Peele and resides at Pickrelltown, Ohio; Jennie, who married Addison Clarridge and lives in Logan County near her

brother Charles; Effie, who lives on the Watkins home place in Logan County; and Howard, who married Alice Loughridge and lives at Lewisburg, Ohio—both he and his wife are preachers in the Society of Friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Sheeley have two children, namely: Beulah Elizabeth, born October 18, 1895; and Lysle Lee, born April 7, 1899. Mr. Sheeley and wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church. The subject of this sketch has given efficient service on the township School Board, but has held no other office, devoting his time to his business. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias and the Odd Fellows.

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